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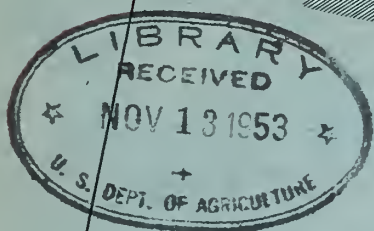
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# HOW THE PUBLIC LEARNED OF THE PROGRAM.....

## *Missouri River Basin*

### AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

A program recommended by Secretary  
of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan for the  
development and conservation of land,  
water, and forest resources, and for flood  
control in the Missouri River Basin



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
APRIL 1949

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The  
Agriculture  
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River Basin  
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elsewhere in the United States. The sample, gathered in the weeks succeeding the announcement of the program near the end of May in Washington, D. C., and Rapid City, S. D., is not intended to report the complete newspaper coverage and treatment.

However, the feature material in the first section is of especial significance. Herein is to be found what the program means to the Missouri Basin as seen through the eyes of a Pulitzer prize editor, a farm editor, a reporter, and citizens who volunteered their opinions in letters to the editor.

August 1949

# IN THE MISSOURI BASIN STATES

*Missouri \**

*Montana*

*Kansas \**

*Wyoming*

*Nebraska \**

*Colorado \**

*South Dakota \**

*Iowa \**

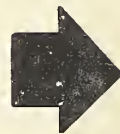
*North Dakota*

*Minnesota \**

*\* Clippings from newspapers in these states are included in this exhibit.*

## **Section I.**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS FROM BASIN STATES**





## KANSAS CITY STAR

## A LAND BULWARK

Vast Missouri River Basin Program Urged by Secretary of Agriculture.

## AT A COST OF 3 BILLION

Proposal Is Aimed at Hastening Conservation and Development Along Stream.

## BIG FUNDS TO FARMERS

The Payments Would Be Made for Co-operating in the Suggested Measures.

By KARL L. PETERSON, JR.  
(A Member of The Star's Staff.)

Rapid City, S. D., May 26.(AP) — The Missouri basin today had a comprehensive plan to develop the land as the Pick-Sloan program is developing the rivers in the nation's agricultural heartland.

The 30-year plan to safeguard the basin's farms against erosion, flood and "another great drought" was unfolded simultaneously in Washington by Charles F. Brannan, secretary of agriculture, and in Rapid City by Ralph R. Will of the secretary's office at a meeting of the Missouri basin inter-agency committee.

## Includes Maps and Charts.

In a 180-page report of 40,000 words and two dozen maps and charts, the plan outlines an unprecedented effort to arrest the ravages of nature and man on the basin's 450 million acres at a federal cost of \$3,092,328,000. The plan has been sent to the budget bureau for approval and transmittal to the Congress.

But, as pointed out by Brannan in a summary preceding the report, the plan is primarily one of assisting the basin's 582,000 farmers and ranchers to build hundreds of thousands of ponds, small upstream

dams, fences, shelterbreaks and other works, and to change farming practices and land use of millions of acres of cropland.

About 2,200 million dollars of the federal outlay would be spent as "partial reimbursement" to the farmers for their conservation work, and their expenditures are expected to total \$3 or \$4 for each dollar of federal money received.

## Big Private Outlay.

That would indicate a private disbursement of about 7½ billion dollars, in addition to federal funds, in this giant project to remodel one-fourth of the nation's farms in the 529,000-square-mile area.

Brannan pointed out that the government now is spending 33 million dollars annually in the area, at which rate at least 100 years would be required to do the job. The secretary proposes to speed that up to 100 million dollars a year.

By holding back and profitably using the waters which fall as rain and snow over the basin, the plan will build "a stable foundation for agriculture in a region where drought is an unusually high risk," and will supplement flood control and irrigation structures now being built under the 6½-billion-dollar Pick-Sloan plan.

## Two Governors Present.

Representatives of the ten basin states, including Governors Val Peterson of Nebraska and George T. Mickelson of South Dakota, and of the five federal agencies on the committee heard these details of how the plan will operate:

Land—20 million acres to be taken out of continuous crop cultivation, and seeded to grass and legumes to combat erosion and depletion of fertility; more and larger livestock farms. Construction of more than 500,000 new ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps and 78,000 wells; cover crops to protect 13 million acres of barren cropland; use of stubble mulching of 34 million grain crop acres in place of "plowing under;" strip cropping and contour farming on 63½ million acres; 1,900,000 miles of terracing; 166,000 miles of fireguards; 65,000 miles of fencing and 2,000 miles of cattle trails.

Forestry—Planting of trees on 5 million acres; reseeding of 400,000 acres; shelter belts and windbreaks on 2½ million acres, and new roads to permit timber cutting in accessible areas of the Rocky mountains.

Streams—From 14,000 to 16,000 small upstream dams and 400 to 600 desilting and debris basins to contain heavy rains and resultant flash floods. The dams, draining less than fifty square miles each,

would store a total of 4,800,000 acre-feet. Also to be built are 4,500 to 5,500 miles of minor floodways, 10,000 to 12,000 miles of channel improvements on small streams and 60,000 to 70,000 miles of dikes and diversion ditches to route flood waters off terraced fields and eroded lands.

## Boost to Irrigation.

Also in the project is aid to farmers in increasing by 2½ times the 5 million acres now under irrigation in the basin, and provision for drainage of 1½ million acres now subject to "periodic flooding."

The proposed federal spending would be as follows:

Conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland, \$1,189,630,000

Forest and forest range land conservation, \$493,609,000.

Projects to stabilize small watercourses, \$1,005,400,000.

Aid of irrigation, \$201,310,000.

Improving drainage of farm land, \$31,942,000.

Soil surveys and land classification, \$28,620,000.

Research on ways of improving farm and forestry production in the basin, \$51,305,000.

Extension education of farmers in new methods, \$60,074,000.

Expanded farm credit facilities for affected farmers, \$30,300,000.

Special studies in rural electrification needs, \$138,000.

## REPORT TO COMMITTEE.

In his presentation, Will told the committee here:

"The primary burden of soil and water conservation and of agricultural betterment, including flood control, inevitably rests upon the private operators of the land. All the government can do is to support and assist that effort. The final value of the plan rests upon the efforts of the people of the Missouri river basin."

Gladwin E. Young, agriculture member of the interagency group, said the program was prepared by a 9-man field committee of nine department agencies appointed a year ago, and assisted by "hundreds of persons" in the basin, including faculty of the land grant colleges and state agency personnel.

A similar field committee will prepare annual work plans and appropriation requests for the work, he said.

"The program proposes to accomplish in a generation what would take a century at the present rate," he said.

## Priority a Factor.

He emphasized that the accelerated program will not replace conservation work now under way. The new work will be started in areas

of "highest priority," where flood sediment and erosion losses are greatest. These areas are not yet chosen.

"The total job will be done in small pieces, each by itself not spectacular," Young explained.

Estimates of what private expenditures will be required, contained in the report, total \$5,030,550,000, exclusive of some undeterminable costs of the farmers. This, with the federal outlay and state costs of \$380,638,575, give an estimated total cost of \$8,503,516,575 for the plan.

## KANSAS CITY TIMES

# STUDY BASIN PLAN

Endorsement of Control Program Is Delayed by Area Representatives.

## TO TAKE ACTION JULY 21

Effect of Agriculture Department Proposal on Reservoirs Is Questioned

The Uncertainty of Changes in Water Supply Also Is Brought Up.

By KARL L. PETERSON, JR.  
(A Member of The Star's Staff.)

Rapid City, S. D., May 26.—The Pick-Sloan planners delayed today endorsement of the 3-billion-dollar Missouri basin plan presented by the Department of Agriculture in order to study some of the problems it presents.

Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota and Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska, with other state and federal agency representatives, said they had not had sufficient time to study the 30-year land development plan.

It was agreed to take up endorsement at the next meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency committee July 21 in Helena, Mont.

### Size of Reservoirs Mentioned.

Mickelson asked if it might not be possible to reduce in size some of the reservoirs, planned or now under construction by the army engineers and reclamation bureau, in view of the silt and water runoff retardation effects of the new upland control plan.

W. G. Sloan, committee chairman and Interior department member, said it was impossible now to foresee specific effects on the major reservoirs of the measures to be undertaken. These include small retarding basins, terracing, contouring farm waterway channels and other retention structures.

"But we do know they will prolong the life of the reservoirs," he said, "and that will be just so much velvet to the entire development."

Sloan pointed out the further uncertainty of how the basin water supply will be affected by an intensive program of tree planting, re-seeding and shift of cropland to pasture provided in the plan.

### Need Support of Group.

Agriculture spokesmen said the department needs endorsement of the plan by the Inter-Agency group before submitting it to Congress, although such is not required by law. Governors of the basin states and federal agency representatives already have been asked individually for comments.

Governor Peterson said the body ought to take a positive stand on the agriculture program.

"If we're agin it, then we're agin it," he said, "but if we support it, we should put on our fightin' clothes."

Late today the committee was tossed a hot potato which has been a long time in the fire—distribution of the hydroelectric power to be generated by the big basin dams.

J. R. Walker, power manager for region six of the reclamation bureau, said 212 applications in a survey last year revealed requests for 883,000 kilowatts of firm power and roughly 445,000 kilowatts of secondary power. Energy available from the Garrison and Ft. Randall dams, with the expected addition of the Gavins Point dam in South Dakota, would provide only 500,000 kilowatts by 1955.

### Priority to Federal Agencies.

He pointed out that the flood control act of 1944 establishes an order of preference on power sales: federal agencies, then public bodies, co-operatives and finally private companies.

Since the indicated supply would not meet even the firm power requests of preference customers, a decision on allocation must be reached, he said. Although the first energy will not be available for four years, plans for construction of transmission lines must be made soon Walker added.

Governor Mickelson and South Dakota private power interests at the session protested the situation created by the preference law. Nebraska is served by public power companies, which have asked preference on more than half the output of the Dakotas' reservoirs, while private firms in the Dakotas, ranked as the most power-starved states in

an Edison institute survey are relegated to the nonpreference list.

Duplication in requests for power and "watering down" of amounts needed when the time comes for signing contracts may extend the supply farther than now appears possible, Kenneth F. Vernon, regional director of the reclamation bureau, told the group.

To suggestions that the federal preference law be amended, Sloan said:

"We have a reputation for co-operation here in the basin. I think this power question can be settled among ourselves without resort to extreme measures."

## KANSAS CITY STAR

# RIVER GROUP ON TOUR

SOUTH DAKOTA PROJECTS SEEN BY THE COMMITTEE.

Action Is Deferred on the 3-Billion-Dollar Development Program of the Secretary of Agriculture.

RAPID CITY, S. D., May 27.(AP).—The Missouri Basin Inter-Agency committee was on a field trip of projects in Western South Dakota today. Members went on the tour after listing these accomplishments at yesterday's business session:

1. Brought South Dakota-Nebraska power distribution differences into the record with a protest against a Nebraska law by Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota.

### ACTION IS PUT OFF.

2. Deferred action until July 21 at Helena, Mont., on Secretary of Agriculture C. F. Brannan's 3-billion-dollar agriculture water conservation and development program.

3. Received report Nebraska had withdrawn objections to North Platte river Glendo dam project in Wyoming. Also decided to proceed with Nebraska-Wyoming-Colorado negotiations while the bureau of reclamation is completing its survey of the proposed project.

4. Heard protests by a Chamberlain, S. D., delegation on a high dam at Ft. Randall which would flood American island and other Chamberlain installations.

Governor Mickelson asked that all governors of the Missouri states submit their comments on the proposed \$3,092,328,000 Brannan plan. Secretary Brannan proposed the program yesterday to conserve soil and develop agricultural resources in the Missouri river basin.

Action on the program was deferred on motion of Gov. Val Peter-



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son of Nebraska who contended the committee had insufficient time to study it.

## WILL STUDY THE PLAN.

"After we study it," he said, "maybe we'll be for it and get on our fighting clothes and fight for it. I'm not prepared to do that at this time."

Governor Mickelson brought the power distribution issue before the group, declaring the 1944 Nebraska law was "inequitable."

He said that under the plan for preference for public bodies, Nebraska would be eligible for more than one-half of the power produced by North and South Dakota dams. Nebraska has a state-wide public power districts law making virtually all of its users preferred. South Dakota's 1949 Legislature defeated a consumers power bill.

The committee took no action on power distribution after a report was given by John W. Walker, Billings, Mont., power manager for region 6 of the Bureau of Reclamation.

However, after lengthy discussion, Chairman W. G. Sloan of the committee said the problem was "one for everyone to do some thinking on and I'm sure it can be worked out satisfactorily."

## KANSAS CITY STAR

## HITS MISSOURI BASIN PLAN.

MVA Proponent Criticizes Agriculture Department's Proposal.

WASHINGTON, May 27.(AP)—A proponent of a Missouri Valley authority criticized today the Agriculture department's 30-year program for the development of the Missouri river basin as a "teaspoon" approach to the world's "biggest soil job."

"The 30-year time schedule proposed for the agricultural program itself appears to have been more closely fitted to the job-term requirements of a group of people in a bureaucracy than to the needs of the valley," Benton J. Strong, chairman of the regional committee for a Missouri Valley authority, said.

Aides of Senator James E. Murray of Montana, Democrat, said Strong and his committee have been working in behalf of Murray's bill to set up a new federal agency to develop resources of the Missouri river valley.

Strong described the department's plan as "an adjunct to the hasty unco-ordinated Pick and Sloan plans." He said the program calls for 3 billion dollars of public expense "which was simply left out of consideration by the Congress and the rival agencies when they pushed through the Pick-Sloan patchwork in order to beat MVA."

# 8½ - Billion - Dollar Agricultural Program to Control Land, Water In Missouri Basin Is Proposed

Brannan's 30-Year Plan Drafted to Fit in With MVA or Any Other System of Administration — Novel in Magnitude, Methods Are Familiar.

By RICHARD G. BAUMHOFF

A Staff Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch.

RAPID CITY, S.D., May 26.

A THIRTY-YEAR agricultural program of far-reaching significance for control and development of land and water resources of the Missouri river valley, at a cost exceeding eight and one-half billion dollars, was made public today. It would involve federal, state and private expenditures.

It would be carried out by the federal Department of Agriculture as a part of the general program of basin improvement, but it would constitute a new and intensive endeavor to hold soil and water where they belong and to promote farming.

The program, sponsored by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, was presented here today by Brannan's representatives to the Missouri Basin Interagency Committee, co-ordinating body for the Interagency or Pick-Sloan plan.

It would amount to an augmentation of that plan, overshadowing the other features in cost and in widespread effect. It was learned that the program was prepared with the idea that it could be fitted also into the proposed Missouri Valley Authority or any other form of administration.

Simultaneously, the bulky report on the program, written as a document for Congress, was made public at Washington. It is in the hands of the Bureau of the Budget now, for checking against the national policies of President Truman. When and if released by the bureau, the proposal will be submitted to Congress by Brannan.

## Likely Stumbling Blocks.

Huge size of the program, and the fact that it is limited to one specific area, the Missouri basin, covering about one-sixth of the nation, are likewise to be stumbling blocks. On the other hand, the departmental sponsors are counting on support from the 10 states of this valley to obtain passage. They believe the plan conforms to the demands of the Interagency Committee members, especially Governors representing the basin states, for intensification of soil and water control.

Ralph Will, an administrative assistant to Brannan, and Gladwin E. Young, chairman of a department field committee and a member of Interagency, presented the program to Interagency. They played leading parts in its preparation. In general, the plan does not enter new fields of activity by the department, but is a marked acceleration over the nation-wide pattern in 10 broad classifications. "The program," said Young, "proposes to accomplish in one generation what would take a century at the present rate. This does not take into account the fact that at the slower rate deterioration would always be moving ahead of us. In the aggregate, there is nothing more spectacular nor more significant to be done in the Missouri basin than the installation and application of the conservation and production measures proposed in this program for our watershed lands, ranges and forests."

Aggregate cost of the 30-year program is estimated at \$8,503,516,575. This includes \$5,030,550,000 expected to be paid by private interests such as farmers and land owners, who would benefit from increased farm production and preservation of their soil and in other ways.

It also includes \$3,092,328,000 to be paid by the Federal Government, at the rate of about \$100,000,000 annually, and \$330,638,575 to be paid by states and, to some extent, by interested local governments.

The federal expenditure would be reduced, and that of the states increased, by a relatively small



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sum for certain work, the amount of which cannot yet be ascertained.

By types of work, in the 10 major classifications, the financial program would be divided as follows:

Crop and grass land improvements—\$4,873,467,000.

Small watercourses — \$1,616,000,000.

Forests and forest land improvements—\$1,028,722,000.

Irrigation aids—\$687,625,000.

Drainage of wet land, including bottoms along the lower Missouri river—\$103,577,000.

Extension education, to help farmers to understand and handle the improvements—\$83,782,575.

Research and investigations—\$51,305,000.

Cost of administering the increased rural credit system, which would aid farmers and land owners in financing their share—\$30,300,000.

Soil surveys—\$28,620,000.

Special studies to help develop rural electrification—\$138,000.

Statistics of the plan run into fantastic figures. In one or more ways it would reach to most of the 582,000 farms, which cover 282,000,000 acres of the basin. Privately owned land, a considerable part of which would be expected to share in the expense of the program, covers 79 per cent of the 531,000 square miles in the basin.

Interdependence of land and water resources of the basin is stressed throughout the program. The outstanding significance is the big-scale proposal to stop the washing away and the blowing away of vitally needed soil and to prevent the uncontrolled, destructive runoff of water. The contemplated treatment of small watercourses, to prevent them from being wholesale sources of floods in the main streams, is on a basin-wide scale.

#### Question of Size of Dams.

On question, as yet unanswered, which some informed persons have raised already, is what might be done to cut down the size and cost of the big dams and reservoirs projected in all parts of the basin, if the agricultural program can be expected to cut down the silt carried by the rivers. Some of the dams are already built or under construction, with large allowances for accumulation of silt behind them. These are Pick-Sloan projects of the Army's Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation.

The report pointed out that 119 reservoirs with aggregate storage capacity of 121,580,000 acre-feet have been authorized in the Missouri basin, at estimated cost of \$1,810,200,000. However, it declared that siltation of the reservoirs is one of the major problems. It estimated that already average loss of storage space annually, due to the piling up of silt, is 250,000 acre-feet, representing an investment

loss of \$6,000,000. (The estimates were on 1947 price levels.)

This loss of storage space for water desired for irrigation, electric power production, navigation, human and industrial consumption and wildlife is not only a monetary loss, the report declared—it means a loss of water, too, as there is a lack of additional suitable storage sites.

"Comprehensive resource development cannot be attained without accelerating the agricultural program to complement and support the engineering phases," said the report. "Plans cannot be made in terms of rivers alone. The rivers and watershed lands must be considered together."

#### Plan for Small Watercourses.

The stabilizing measures recommended for the small watercourses of the basin, the report maintained, "are essential to the protection of the reservoirs authorized or proposed under the Pick-Sloan plan. Many of these reservoirs are subject to seriously high rates of silting. Many of them are located in sub-humid and semi-arid areas of the basin. In these areas land use and conservation practices alone will not provide a satisfactory degree of sediment control. They should be supported by stabilizing measures of the kind recommended in this program."

Highlights of the agricultural program were set out in an introduction to the report signed by Secretary Brannan.

"The report," he said, "is a new and outstanding landmark in planning for the continuous development, conservation and use of our assets in land, water and forests in our river systems."

"A stable foundation for agriculture in all its aspects in a region where drouth is an unusually high risk in farming is, of course, a primary target of the program. But it is also designed in all its parts to contribute to flood control in all the major and minor valleys of the basin. Better water supplies, an enlarged and sustained lumbering industry, and new and better opportunities for recreation are a few of the program's many other attainable accomplishments and serve to illustrate its scope."

#### Gains to Be Expected.

"By its careful design, the program will enlarge the wealth of benefits the nation rightly expects from our increasingly large investment of public money in dams, reservoirs and other huge engineering works in the basin. The agricultural program will protect these works and give them longer life and, at the same time, aid farmers and farm families in using the expected benefits to better advantage."

"Unwise management of land and poor land and cropping practices are common throughout the basin. These are in part concealed and in part encouraged by the blessing of good weather. As a result, deterioration goes on

largely unchecked in our resources and the basin is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the unpredictable advent of another great drouth. We should be using the good years to prepare for the bad."

"In its design and its operating principles, the program recognizes that its success will be determined in the end by the ability and the capacity of farmers and land owners to fulfill their responsibilities in land management. The program likewise recognizes that the Government does not operate directly on land in private hands except by agreement with land owners. But the program also recognizes that all farmers and land owners, by and large, are willing to apply the best in practical land treatment—not only because it assures conservation of our resources but also because it enriches productivity and contributes to security in land values."

#### Magnitude is Novel.

"The program is truly novel in its magnitude, but the principles it recommends and eventually will apply throughout the basin are familiar, time-tested scientific practices and structures. The program offers no startling innovation in land use or in the department's logical and usual role in conserving our land resources and controlling the flow of water. The body of the program represents numerous functions, services, activities and direct undertakings which the department already has under way in some measure in the basin and, to the extent to which they are appropriate, everywhere in the United States."

"The unique qualities of the program are to be found in its coordination of land management for conservation and flood control, in its integration of diversified services in order to achieve a common goal, and in its recommendations for a much swifter pace in conservation and the adoption of constructive land management."

"The program will go forward on five major operating fronts (the first five of the 10 classifications listed above), in which the emphasis will be largely upon the management and use of our land resources for conservation and flood control."

#### Outstanding Features of Plan.

Some outstanding features of the plan, as set out in the Secretary's foreword, are as follows:

Improved land management for a "large part" of the 113,000,000 acres of crop land in the basin; seeding of grass and legumes on 20,000,000 acres.

Provision of cover crops and green manure annually to protect 13,000,000 acres of now barren crop land.

Stubble mulching treatment of 34,000,000 acres of grain land.

Strip planting of crops and contour plowing on 63,500,000 acres.

Shaping of 1,900,000 miles of



terraces in fields to handle water.

Limitations on grazing and, in some areas, grass and legume seeding, on 157,500,000 acres of privately owned range and pasture land.

Construction, improvement and use of more than 500,000 new stockwater ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps and 78,000 wells.

Protection of grazing land with 166,000 miles of fire guards, 65,000 miles of new fencing and 2000 miles of new cattle trails.

Tree planting on 5,000,000 acres of forests and reseeded of 400,000 acres of forest range, also various protections against fire.

Planting or more than 2,500,000 acres of shelter-belts and windbreaks.

Building from 14,000 to 16,000 small upstream dams and 400 to 600 de-silting and debris basins. Also 4500 to 5500 miles of minor floodways, 10,000 to 12,000 miles of channel improvements on small streams, and 60,000 to 70,000 miles of diversion ditches and dikes.

"There is no magic and no wizardry in this effort," said Brannan in summation. "It proposes to strive toward what nature, under the most ideal conditions, does to replenish and strengthen renewable resources."

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## VOTE ON BRANNAN MISSOURI BASIN PLAN IS PUT OFF BY INTERAGENCY

**Gov. Peterson Leads  
Move to Postpone Com-  
mitment Until Next  
Meeting — Various  
Questions Raised.**

By RICHARD G. BAUMHOFF  
A Staff Correspondent of the  
Post-Dispatch.

RAPID CITY, S.D., May 27—  
The Missouri Basin Interagency  
Committee has declined to take a  
stand for or against the eight-

and-one-half-billion-dollar agricul-  
tural program for the Missouri  
valley laid before it by the fed-  
eral Department of Agriculture.

Committee members asked many  
questions, some with a critical  
tinge, when the huge proposal to  
conserve the soil and retard the  
runoff of water was presented yes-  
terday by department representa-  
tives. It was decided to take the  
program up again for approval or  
disapproval at the committee's  
next meeting, two months hence at  
Helena Mont., after the members  
have had time to study the volu-  
minous document.

Meanwhile the Department of  
Agriculture anticipates written in-  
dividual comments from the gov-  
ernors of the 10 states in the basin  
and the four federal departments  
which, with Agriculture, are rep-  
resented on Interagency.

### Urges Delay in Decision.

Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska,  
chairman of the Missouri River  
States Committee, which repre-  
sents all the basin states, took the  
lead in preventing any commit-  
ment by the committee on the  
plan, backed by Gov. George T.  
Mickelson of South Dakota. If,  
after study, the committee favors  
the far-reaching proposal to deal  
with land throughout the broad  
basin, Peterson said, then we can  
get our fighting clothes on and  
fight for it." He added they could  
oppose the plan, too, if they felt  
they should.

In general, the program has  
been assumed to be the answer to  
what Interagency members have  
felt, with growing urgency was  
needed to conserve soil and water.  
Interagency is the voluntary co-  
ordinating body for the augmented  
Pick-Sloan plan, which has con-  
sisted chiefly of river work by the  
Bureau of Reclamation and the  
Army's Corps of Engineers. This  
new plan, sponsored by Secretary  
of Agriculture Charles F. Bran-  
nan, so far overshadows the origi-  
nal Pick-Sloan that no surprise  
was expressed by officials here  
over the idea that the Interagency  
scheme might become known as  
the Brannan-Pick-Sloan plan.

### Three Notable Questions.

Three notable questions were  
raised at the committee meeting  
about the agricultural plan, de-  
tails of which were published in  
yesterday's Post-Dispatch. These  
were:

Peterson wanted to know if  
the plan might not go too far,  
indicating a preliminary conclu-  
sion on his part that this might  
be the case.

Mickelson made a serious  
point as to whether the size and  
cost of the many big inter-  
agency dams and reservoirs  
might be reduced if, as claimed,  
the agricultural plan could be  
expected to cut down sharply  
the movement of silt into the

streams.

W. G. Sloan, chairman of  
Interagency and a co-author of  
Pick-Sloan, asked whether the  
proposed provisions for exten-  
sive tree planting might reduce  
the volume of water reaching  
the streams.

"What part of this program is  
required to supplement directly  
the general basin plan and what  
part is an expansion of depart-  
mental activities, fine in them-  
selves, but not directly related to  
the basin work?" Peterson asked.

### Reply on Scope of Program.

In reply, Gladwin E. Young,  
Agriculture's representative on In-  
teragency, who took a leading part  
in preparation of the agricultural  
program, declared that all phases  
of the departmental proposal were  
needed. He said the entire pro-  
gram was directed to land, water  
and general resource conservation.

Peterson suggested there were  
portions of the program which  
might not easily be defended in  
some communities and that there  
might be too many additional  
county agricultural agents con-  
templated.

"I don't see how some of this  
proposal fits into the general Mis-  
souri basin program," he went on,  
adding, "It's a foregone conclusion  
this proposal isn't going to get  
anywhere in the present session  
of Congress."

Although he said he hadn't fin-  
ished reading the program, Peter-  
son quoted a paragraph from  
page 146 of the report, concerning  
extension education to help farm-  
ers take advantage of the im-  
provements contemplated. He  
commented: "I don't see how any-  
body could oppose that, but just  
where does it fit into our pro-  
gram?"

Young's response was that the  
department didn't want to do its  
job in the basin "piecemeal." He  
explained that additional farm  
agents would be assigned only to  
counties where much extra work  
was to be done.

### NOTE:

At a subsequent meeting,  
the Missouri Basin Inter-  
Agency Committee recorded  
its approval of the recom-  
mended program by adopting  
a motion proposed by Gover-  
nor Peterson of Nebraska.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# Brannan Basin Proposal Viewed As Powerful Argument for MVA

## Regional Committee Head Says Plan Substantiates Charge Missouri River Program Is 'Major Mess.'

By **GEORGE H. HALL**  
A Washington Correspondent of  
the Post-Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Powerful arguments for creation of a Missouri Valley Authority are contained in the huge Department of Agriculture Missouri River basin program announced yesterday.

This is the opinion of Benton J. Stong, chairman of the regional committee for MVA, who issued a bristling criticism of the program today. He said the bulky document furnishes "complete substantiation of the charges recently affirmed by the Hoover commission that Missouri river development is in a major mess."

Whether by coincidence or design the Agriculture Department plan was marked for release early yesterday morning, six hours before the scheduled release time of the final summary report of the commission on organization of the executive branch of the government, headed by former President Hoover.

### Charges Repeated in Report.

The final Hoover report repeated the commission's earlier charges regarding the operation of the Pick-Sloan plan for Missouri river basin.

It said in part: "The end result (of the Pick-Sloan, or Army Engineers-Bureau of Reclamation compromise plan) has been needless delay, confusion and gross waste of the taxpayers' money. The history of the operation of these agencies in the Missouri valley provides eloquent testimony to the disastrous consequences of the competition between these federal agencies."

Despite this criticism, the Agriculture Department's explanation of its plan specifically states that it is "designed to complement, support and protect the vast system of engineering works being constructed in the Missouri basin under what has come to be known as the Pick-Sloan plan."

Strong's statement said the report, "added to what we know about the inadequacy and immaturity of the Pick and Sloan plans, plus the recent studies of the Hoover Commission, our MVA Committee and the Public Affairs Institute, shows at least these five things wrong with having three and one-quarter bosses for the Missouri basin job:

"The water will cost too much for the farmers to pay for it and may destroy both land and farmers before the agricultural bureaucracy's slow-motion program gets around to stopping any projects.

"The hydro-electric power is going to cost too much for the people of the basin to get any benefit from it.

"The navigation program is either going to hog all the water of beach the barges.

"The taxpayers are going to pay a heavy and unnecessary burden.

"A new integrated and dynamic approach—such as obtained for the Tennessee Valley low cost power, industrialization and great agricultural improvements—is tremendously needed."

TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL

## Brannan Proposes 3-Billion Missouri Basin Program

### Would Keep Resources And Provide Full Soil Usage, He Says

Washington, May 26.—(P)—Secretary of Agriculture Brannan proposed today a \$3,092,000,000 program for speeding up development and conservation of agricultural resources in the Missouri River Basin.

He said the program would do in 30 years what otherwise would take 100 years—and very much more money—at the present rate of progress.

The program would supplement a \$5,000,000,000 flood-control plan for the Missouri River and its main tributaries already authorized by

Congress and known as the "Pick-Sloan Plan."

### Says Its A 'Must'

In a report Brannan said his program is "imperative if we are to preserve the resources with which the basin is richly endowed and assure their full employment for the continuing good of the people."

The bulk of the proposed federal expenditures would be used to make payments to farmers for carrying out government recommended measures for protecting the land from erosion. A major objective would be a return of much cropland to pastures for livestock-grazing.

### Shelter Belts

The plan also calls for planting of more than 2,500,000 acres of shelter-belts and windbreaks to conserve moisture, check wind erosion, and to protect livestock and crops.

The area which would be covered by the program includes all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of Missouri and Kansas, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota.

### Flood Control

Brannan said he expects to submit the program to Congress later, after it has been checked and approved by the budget bureau.

The secretary said the program would contribute greatly to the problem of controlling floods, because it would be designed to help hold water back on the land, where it is needed to grow crops, ranges, forests, and the like.

He said it also would help protect the public investment in the 105 big flood control reservoirs envisioned by the Pick-Sloan Plan by reducing the rate at which they would fill up with soil sediment.

The proposed federal spending would be as follows:

Conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland \$1,189,630,000.

Forest and forest range land conservation \$493,609,000.

Projects to stabilize small water courses \$1,005,400,000.

Aid of irrigation \$201,310,000.

Improving drainage of farm land \$31,942,000.

Soil surveys and land classification \$28,620,000.

Research on ways of improving farm and forestry production in the basin \$31,305,000.

Extension education of farmers in new methods \$60,074,000.

Expanded farm credit facilities for affected farmers \$30,300,000.

Special studies in rural electrification needs \$138,000.

Brannan proposed that \$100,000,000 a year be spent on these projects. Roughly \$33,000,000,000 a year is being spent on them now



LINCOLN JOURNAL

## Basin Study Is Completed; Report Coming

Compiled from Press Dispatches.

BILLINGS, Mont.—An agriculture department report on a conservation and agricultural plan for the Missouri basin is expected to be submitted at next Thursday's meeting of the inter-agency committee.

W. G. Sloan, chairman, said the report would be given at a meeting in Rapid City, S.D., by Gladwin E. Young of Lincoln, Neb., agriculture's representative on the inter-agency committee.

The report, Sloan explained, is expected to fill the need for development in areas not directly benefited by the authorized program now being carried out.

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**ITEMS ON THE** committee's agenda include a discussion of the distribution of power being developed at federally-built power plants on the main stem of the Missouri river in North and South Dakota, Sloan added.

Another feature of the meeting, he said, will be a report on negotiations between Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska concerning the Glendo dam and reservoir.

On May 27, a tour of reclamation and flood control projects in the Black Hills is scheduled.

\*\*\*  
**THE INTER-AGENCY** committee is composed of governors of five states and five representatives of federal agencies active in the authorized plan for Missouri basin development. Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska is a member.

Peterson has been fighting a proposal to increase the size of the Glendo reservoir from the approved 150,000 acre feet to 750,000 acre feet. He fears Nebraska water rights might be endangered by the larger reservoir.

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## Brannan Offers \$3 Billion Plan For Conservation Missouri Basin Would Benefit from Proposals

WASHINGTON. (AP). Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan proposed Thursday a \$3,092,000,000 program for speeding up development and conservation of agricultural resources in the Missouri river basin.

He said the program would do in 30 years what otherwise would take 100 years—and very much more money—at the present rate of progress.

The program would supplement a \$5,000,000,000 flood-control plan for the Missouri river and its main tributaries already authorized by congress and known as the Pick-Sloan plan.

The bulk of the proposed federal expenditures would be used to make payments to farmers for carrying out government recommended measures for protecting the land from erosion. A major objective would be a return of much cropland to pastures for livestock-grazing.

\*\*\*  
**HE SAID IT** also would help protect the public investment in the 105 big flood control reservoirs envisioned by the Pick-Sloan plan by reducing the rate at which they would fill up with soil sediment.

The proposed federal spending would be as follows:

Conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland, \$1,189,630,000.  
Forest and forest range land conservation, \$493,609,000.  
Projects to stabilize small watercourses, \$1,005,400,000.  
Aid of irrigation, \$201,310,000.  
Improving drainage of farm land, \$31,942,000.  
Soil surveys and land classification, \$28,620,000.  
Research on ways of improving farm and forestry production in the basin, \$51,305,000.  
Extension education of farmers in new methods, \$60,074,000.  
Expanded farm credit facilities for affected farmers, \$30,300,000.  
Special studies in rural electrification needs, \$138,000.

Brannan proposed that \$100,000,000 a year be spent on these projects. Roughly \$33,000,000 a year is being spent on them now.

\*\*\*  
**MAJOR PHASES** of the program include:

Improved land management on a large part of the basin's 113,000,000 acres of cropland "to assure their employment in the

best adapted uses, to control erosion and halt depletion, and to retard flood waters at their very source."

This would mean, the report said, seeding of grass and legumes on 20,000,000 acres of land now being depleted by continuous use; green manure and cover crops every year to protect 13,000,000 acres of barren land; stubble mulching 34,000,000 acres of grain crops to prevent erosion; strip cropping and contour farming on 63,500,000 acres; and 1,900,000 miles of terraces to retain water or to dispose of it in safety.

**TO HELP** develop and stabilize a larger livestock industry, the program proposes 500,000 new ponds; 30,000 springs and seeps, 78,000 wells for water. Grazing land would be protected with 166,000 miles of fire guards.

To conserve and develop forests the program would plant trees on 5,000,000 acres of forest land and on 400,000 acres of range land. It also proposes construction of lookout towers, roads, trails and fire crew stations to provide better fire protection.

The plan also calls for planting of more than 2,500,000 acres of shelter-belts and windbreaks to conserve moisture, check wind erosion, and to protect livestock, crops and furniture.

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# Report Stresses Land, Water Use

## 30-Year Plan for Basin Outlined by Ag Official

BY STANLEY A MATZKE.

Farm Editor, The Journal Newspapers.

A 30-year program of agricultural development for the Missouri River Basin, emphasizing land and water use, was placed before the Missouri Basin Interagency committee Thursday at Rapid City, S. D. Estimated cost is \$3,092,-328,000.

The interagency committee is composed of five governors, representing the ten Missouri river basin states, and representatives of these five federal agencies concerned with basin development: The bureau of reclamation, the corps of army engineers, the federal power commission, the department of commerce and the department of agriculture.

The committee's function is to co-ordinate the activities of these various agencies in basin water and land use programs, which to date have emphasized flood control and navigation, with lesser stress on irrigation, power and conservation.

**THE REPORT** and recommendations, prepared by order of Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan last July, was submitted to the committee by Gladwin Young of Lincoln, field representative of the secretary. Young represents nine agricultural department agencies on the committee. The USDA agencies are the soil conservation service, the forest service, the agricultural research administration, the production and marketing administration, the farmers home administration, the farm credit administration, the rural electrification administration, the land grant college extension service and the bureau of agricultural economics.

**AIMED AT THE** highest possible economic, social and financial development of the basin of the "country's largest single river the flow of which comes from ten states and drains one-sixth of the country's total land area," the report relies for the attainment of its objectives on "the ability and the capacity of farmers and land owners to fulfill their re-

sponsibilities in land management."

The plan aims to, do in 30 years what at the present rate of work and spending might take 100 years. It will be submitted to congress by Secretary Brannan as soon as other agencies, including the basin interagency committee and the budget bureau, give it their approval.

**EMPHASIZING** the need for an "agricultural program" to supplement the work authorized and being done by the army engineers and the bureau of reclamation, the report said:

"The flood control act of 1944 by authorizing the Pick-Sloan plan partially meets the challenge of protecting the Missouri basin from the full impacts of disastrous floods and drouths. But comprehensive resources development cannot be attained without accelerating the agricultural program to complement and support the engineering phases. The rivers and watershed lands must be considered together. But neither authorization nor appropriation has yet been made to carry on the accelerated program essential to the comprehensive development of the watershed lands of the basin."

**THE PROBLEM** of basin development are approached by the report on five fronts.

The first of these is conservation practices to be applied to the basin's 282,000,000 acres of crop and glass land by its 582,000 farmers and ranchers. Young said the recommendations would double the rate of technical service and increase direct aids by about 43 percent.

Secondly the program contemplates the development, management and use in accordance

with proper conservation practices of the basin's forests and forest ranges, both private and public.

The other three approaches are stabilizing measures for small water courses, irrigation and drainage.

**EACH OFF THESE** five is made the basis of a specific program and recommendations supplemented by five additional programs: (1) A program of soil surveys and land classification. (2) A program of research and investigations. (3) A program of extension education. (4) A supporting credit program. (5) A program of rural electrification.

No new agencies are recommended for the carrying out of the program.

**THE MAJOR ASPECTS** of the program "are to be found in the application of conservation practices and good land use measures to farms and ranches, in the improvement of forests and forest ranges, and in the stabilization of stream flows," the report emphasizes.

In making and applying practical conservation plans, farmers, ranchers, and land owners will have available the best technical assistance the government and state agencies can furnish, and in addition they will be reimbursed in part for the cost of the initial installation and application of those practices. The report states, "Partial reimbursement recognizes that many benefits accrue directly to the public from these installations."

**THE DIMENSIONS** of the program, it is pointed out, are best illustrated by the major achievements to be expected at the end of 30 years of accelerated effort. These are listed as:

Improved land management on 113,000,000 acres of cropland to assure erosion control, moisture conservation, halting of soil and fertility depletion, and to retard flood waters at their source.

The seeding of 20,000,000 acres of grass and legumes where continuous cultivation is depleting fertility and accelerating erosion. This, the report states, means more and larger livestock enterprises in the basin.

The growing of 13,000,000 acres of green manure and cover crops annually to protect barren cropland from wind and water erosion and to sustain the soil's fertility.

Stubble mulch tillage practices to increase the amount of water absorbed by 34,000,000 acres of grain crops.

Strip cropping and contour farming on 63,500,000 acres of cropland.

The building of 1,900,000 miles of ter-



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rares to safely dispose of water runoff.

Reseeding 17,500,000 acres of privately owned range and pasture land; adjusting livestock to carrying capacity on 117,300,000 acres and the use of seasonal grazing on 7,700,000 acres.

The construction of 500,000 new stock-water pounds, 30,000 springs and creeks, and 75,000 wells essential to the uniform use of grazing lands.

The protection of grazing lands from fire depletion and erosion by 165,000 miles of fire guards, 65,000 miles of new fencing and 2,000 miles of new cattle trails.

New plantings of 5,000,000 acres of forest and the reseeded of 400,000 acres of forest range, and the planting of 2,500,000 acres of shelter belts and wind-breaks to conserve moisture, check wind erosion and protect crops, livestock and farmsteads.

To stabilize small water courses approximately 16,000 small upstream dams are planned along with 600 desilting and debris basins. Additional stabilization measures include 4,500 to 5,500 miles of minor floodways, 12,000 miles of small stream channel improvements, and 70,000 miles of diversion ditches and dikes to route flood water from land subject to erosion.

"THERE IS NO magic and no wizardry in this effort," the report said of its \$100,000,000 per year program. "It proposes to strive toward what nature, under ideal conditions, does to replenish and strengthen renewable resources. The challenge we face is the accomplishment of the same result as we use our land, water and forests to fulfill our needs in food, clothing and shelter, in safer and more secure living, and in assuring better means of a livelihood."

"But," the public is warned, "it will require continuous and co-ordinated work on all land in the Missouri basin. The private lands in the basin must be protected and developed by farmers, ranchers, and land owners operating on their land with the accelerated active assistance of government."

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## Interagency Group Delays Taking Stand

### Peterson Says May Back Plan

RAPID CITY, S. D. (AP). The agriculture department's program for land and water conservation and development in the Missouri basin met a challenge Thursday.

Nebraska's Gov. Val Peterson declared, "I don't see where it is geared into the Missouri basin program."

And during the same discussion, Gov. George T. Mickelson

of South Dakota established that the program was in effect an eight and one-half billion dollar undertaking including private and local governmental spending

**THE ONLY TWO** governors attending the 31st meeting of the Missouri basin interagency committee began questioning department of agriculture officials after the program was submitted for study.

Gladwin E. Young, field representative of the department of agriculture who presented the report, at times called on Ralph R. Will, an administrative assistant of Agricultural Secretary Charles Brannan. Will helped prepare the program.

**PETERSON ASKED** if the program could be divided, segregating the parts directly supplementing the basin program.

Young replied, "No, we don't want to do the program piecemeal."

Will said that the department would like to have the whole program approved by congress.

Peterson said he was sure "we couldn't get any action out of this congress if we presented such a program at this time."

**BOTH GOVERNORS** emphasized they were not "entering into the merits of the proposed program at this time." They said they had not had enough time to study it.

Mickelson asked Young how much additional landowners, state and local governmental divisions would need to invest in the program. The federal cost would be \$3,092,328,000, Young said. In addition, farmers would invest about five billion and the governmental divisions a lesser amount. The local governmental share would be about 380 million.

**THE INTERAGENCY** committee decided to delay action on the plan until its next meeting.

"After we study it," Governor Peterson said, "maybe we'll be for it and get on our fighting clothes to fight for it. I'm not prepared to do that at this time."

## South Platte Flood Project Is Urged

WASHINGTON. (AP). Authorization of the South Platte flood control project for the protection of northeastern Colorado communities was urged Thursday by Rep. Warren S. Hill (r., Colo.).

In a statement to the house public works committee, he said the project would benefit Denver, Boulder and Erie, and 10,000 acres of agricultural lands along the Platte river.

## Basin Plan Attacked by MVA Backer

### Brannan Scheme Said Too Slow

Compiled from Press Reports.

WASHINGTON.—The regional committee for the Missouri Valley authority Friday denounced the administration's new Missouri basin plan as a "teaspoon approach" to the biggest conservation job in history.

Committee Chairman Benton J. Stong said the proposed \$10,000,000,000 program bears out "charges recently affirmed by the Hoover commission that Missouri river development is in a major mess."

**THE PLAN WAS** made public Thursday by Agriculture Secretary Charles F. Brannan. He proposed that the federal government spend \$100,000,000 a year for the next 30 years to safeguard Missouri basin farm-lands against erosion, flood and "another great drouth." Local farmers would put up the rest of the money.

"The taxpayers are now told belatedly that there must be \$3,000,000,000 added to the \$6,000,000,000 already programmed," Stong said.

Stong also said Brannan's plan "indicts all the bureau of reclamation's guesses about irrigation in the basin when it proposes to take over all land work" from the reclamation bureau.

Stong said that under Brannan's proposals the reclamation job would be performed too slowly to be effective.

**MEANWHILE**, the Missouri basin inter-agency committee was on a field trip of projects in western South Dakota.

Members went on the tour after listing these accomplishments at Thursday's business session:

1. Brought South Dakota-Nebraska power distribution differences into the record with a protest against a Nebraska law by Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota.

2. Deferred action until July 21 at Helena, Mont., on Secretary Brannan's program.

3. Received report Nebraska had withdrawn objections to North Platte river Glendo dam project in Wyoming. Also decided to proceed with Nebraska-Wyoming-Colorado negotiations

while the bureau of reclamation is completing its survey of the proposed project.

4. Heard protests by a Chamberlain, S. D., delegation on a high dam at Ft. Randall which would flood American Island and other Chamberlain installations.

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## Soil Program For Missouri Basin Lauded Lang Terms It 'Generally Good'

The agriculture department's Missouri river basin farm program Wednesday was termed generally a "good sound plan" by the secretary-treasurer of the Nebraska Reclamation association.

Roy M. Lang of Lincoln said the program "will help protect the soil by preventing erosion and wash thru the establishment of minor pools and small dams of tributary streams and thru improved farm practices."

Lang said he thought the only thing that might not prove satisfactory is the provision by which the secretary of agriculture could set interest rates on loans made to farmers.

He suggested that some check should be imposed on the secretary, perhaps in the form of a maximum rate.

Lang added "The basin-wide agriculture program is designed to complement, support and protect the vast system of engineering works being constructed in the Missouri basin under the Pick-Sloan plan.

He spoke before the Lincoln Realtors board.

## O'Mahoney Urges Delay On Two Disputed Dams

WASHINGTON. (P). Sen. Joseph O'Mahoney (d., Wyo.) proposed Wednesday that construction of both the Moorhead and Glendo dams in the Missouri valley be held up until plans for them have been reviewed by the states concerned and approved by congress.

Opposition to the Moorhead dam, on Powder river near the Wyoming-Montana line, has come from some farmers and

ranchers in both states. They contend the project would flood valuable lands.

Nebraska officials have expressed fear that the Glendo dam on the North Platte river in Wyoming might affect irrigation rights in their state.

O'Mahoney said he would seek to amend the interior department appropriation bill to provide that no money can be used for construction of Moorhead and Glendo dams until reviews from Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska, and approval by congress.

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## Editor Says Overall Basin Plan Starting on Lands Needed

The Missouri valley basin plan will not be complete unless it becomes an overall program starting on farm lands and treating the problem of resources development as one of watersheds as a whole rather than of rivers alone.

That was the substance of a speech by editor Raymond A. McConnell, jr., editor of The Journal Newspapers at a dinner meeting of the Mortgage Bankers association of Nebraska at the Lincoln hotel Friday night.

Leading up to this conclusion, the speaker traced the history and deficiencies of the Pick-Sloan plan. He described the bureau of reclamation's interest in irrigation and power, and the army engineers' work with flood control and navigation.

PRIMARILY, he said, the engineers have been interested in building big dams on the main stream and the reclamation bureau has been working on the tributaries. He said there has been overlapping, duplication and disagreement.

"Now, five years later," he continued, "we have a third agency coming in, and it is high time.

"That is the department of agriculture, saying in effect they don't necessarily disagree with the projects either agency is building, but they don't think either agency knows fully the extent to which the dams are justified or the period of time they can be expected to be useful."

HE SAID \$6,500,000,000 is to spent on the Missouri river basin under the Pick-Sloan plan but there is no adequate basis of knowing how much flood control is necessary, how much water

can be conserved, or how long the developments will last.

"In view of this," he said, "it seems desirable to examine this \$6,500,000,000 project."

He listed five main parts of the proposed department of agriculture plan to supplement the Missouri valley. They are:

1. Step up conservation and land management practices.

2. Intensify conservation of forests and ranges and farm shelter belts.

3. Make plans for the small watersheds such as creeks leading to the tributaries.

4. Irrigation aids.

5. Drainage improvement on lands where better drainage is desirable.

HE EXPLAINED that the department of agriculture proposes to speed up present conservation practices so that in 30 years the region will have advanced as far as it would in 100 years, at the present rate.

Referring to the necessity for research to make Missouri basin development a success, he said in area after area there is inadequate basic knowledge.

"How you can intelligently build a dam on a small tributary without knowing the amount of water that is going to be run off. I don't know," he said. "And the department of agriculture says no one knows," he added.

The important thing in Nebraska, he said, is land and water conservation for the mass of farm land not on rivers.

The U.S.D.A. plan, he said, is of vital importance to Nebraska, and one whose objective should have priority over those of the Pick-Sloan developments, if the latter are to be of maximum possible value.



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# Basin Land Use Plan Emphasized

## Clinic Opens On Missouri Development

A Missouri basin engineer and a reclamation bureau director agreed Monday that the department of agriculture's land use program is vitally important to the success of the overall basin development program.

Conflicts which have arisen as the program progressed were minimized.

Avery A. Batson, regional bureau director at Denver, said the department of agriculture's program "could not be overemphasized."

And Brig. Gen. S. D. Sturgis, jr., division engineer for the U. S. corps of engineers, stationed at Omaha, asserted, "We're very strong for it"

\* \* \*  
**GENERAL STURGIS**, successor to Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, said "The program looks excellent and will add immeasurably to the life of reservoirs" by reducing siltation.

Federal agency spokesmen, here for a summer session clinic at the University of Nebraska, outlined the estimated 10 billion Missouri basin development program at a press conference.

They said benefits from the program—on which they pin their hopes for protecting the area against boom-and-bust economy—will far outweigh the cost and momentary disadvantages.

\* \* \*  
**NEBRASKA**, the only state of the ten lying wholly within the basin, stands to profit considerably in the conversion of dry-land farming to irrigation field representative.

The officials estimated the program ultimately will bring 5,000,000 acres of land in the basin under irrigation and that an additional 2,000,000 acres will be protected against floods.

The new irrigation will add some 25,000 farms to those already in operation, Young said.

On the other hand, an estimated 900,000 acres will be flooded in construction of reservoirs needed to complete the

program, General Sturgis said.

But the land to be flooded is valued at less than one-fourth of the land to be protected, he added, and displaced persons will be transferred so that their economic condition will be "as good as before."

**YOUNG SAID** 5,000 farm families would be displaced in the construction against the 25,000 new farms which would be created thru extension of irrigation.

Flood protection and irrigation development, and the accompanying hydro-electric power provided, should be attractive bait for industry based on processing farm and other products, Batson said.

Ralph W. Sullivan, Omaha, district manager of the department of commerce, stressed beneficial effects on business and the growth in population which might be expected to follow completion of the program.

\* \* \*  
**THE MISSOURI** basin, hardest hit of any area in the nation during the 1930's, when this part of the country suffered an almost knock-out blow from the migration of bankrupt farmers, should enjoy a stabilized population under the development program, officials said.

General Sturgis pointed out that under the authority by which the inter-agency committee operates, any disagreements which cannot be settled within the committee are to go to the various departments in Washington.

"So far, none has been sent," he added.

Batson declared, "If so-called conflicts did not develop, we would be worried."

"The true test of the plan is how well differences of opinion are resolved," he said.

B. H. Greene, regional engineer for the federal power commission in Chicago, estimated that by 1970 peak power production in the basin would be between two and three times that of 1946. He gave the 1946 total at 3,535,000 kilowatts, and the estimated 1970 total at 9,422,000 kilowatts.

**THE DEFINITION** of the Nebraska supreme court ruling, forbidding diversion of water from basin to basin, needs to be clarified, Batson said.

Under a liberal interpretation,

prohibiting diversion only from major basins, the development plan could proceed. But a strict interpretation, banning diversion from streams, would be a blow to every project, he said.

Monday night's program will feature a public lecture and "town meeting" forum at 7:30 at Love Memorial library auditorium.

Speakers will be General Sturgis and Shelton Streater, of the regional branch of project planning of the bureau of reclamation in Denver. Dean Roy M. Green of the university's college of engineering and architecture will preside.

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## Full Watershed Development Young Declares

The most spectacular of all Missouri basin developments, far more than the erection of huge dams, will be the use by farmers of their lands so as to control floods at the source and to hold the top soil where it will grow crops.

That is what Gladwin E. Young, field representative of the secretary of agriculture told a luncheon group attending the University of Nebraska conference on basin development Monday noon.

Young outlined the proposals of the report and recommendations recently made to the inter-agency committee and spoke of the significance of each in their relationship to the objectives of the Pick-Sloan developments now under construction.

\* \* \*  
**THE REASON**, Young said, that no basic planning with respect to overall land use and water conservation had preceded the Pick-Sloan operations was that the authorization of these developments by congress was done with three specific things in mind, (1) flood control, (2) drouth relief and (3) the necessity for a make-work program to meet the needs of the 30's and the expected unemployment to follow the end of the war.

Now, with the program of on-river dams well underway, the necessity for full watershed development becomes daily more imperative, he suggested. The agricultural phases of the basin plans must be accelerated to catch up with the engineering phases. He asserted however that the engineering phases being carried out by the bureau of

## LINCOLN JOURNAL

reclamation and the corps of army engineers should not wait but should be molded into the whole picture of basin development which has now taken definite form.

\* \* \*

**THE FULL IMPACT** of the overall development, upon which \$600,000,000 has already been spent, with \$1,800,000,000 authorized by congress, upon the agriculture of the region can only be fully utilized by an overall agricultural development program, he said.

\* \* \*

**"THE HAZARDS** of weather (in the Missouri basin), extremes in production and income, and population instability present a challenge to the nation," Young said.

Young termed the Missouri river basin "a great national asset still awaiting full development."

"The flood control act of 1944, which authorized the Pick-Sloan plan, was designed to partially meet this challenge," Young continued "thru this act the nation gave concrete expression to a policy of investment in basin-wide resource development for this important area."

\* \* \*

**"BUT COMPREHENSIVE** resource development cannot be attained alone by engineering development to impound and use the waters of the rivers. The rivers and watershed lands must be considered together. This fact was recognized early by the Missouri basin inter-agency committee."

Young said new and outstanding landmark in co-ordinated river basin planning has been accomplished by the preparation of an agricultural plan for the Missouri river basin. It is drafted in a form that, when approved by congress, will become the basic authorization under which the U. S. department of agriculture and the agricultural colleges can more adequately carry out the agricultural phases of Missouri basin development.

\* \* \*

**"THE PLAN** proposes an authorization for a 30-year period, the details of which are specifically set forth for authorization. It is based on established principles of participation of government with co-operating land owners and operators. It would accelerate and complement existing agriculture programs. It would telescope the job of conservation of cropland and grassland into a 30-year period instead of a hundred years," he said.

"It would increase shelterbelts and improve the forests that protect valuable water supplies. It would contribute to flood control and reduce siltation by re-

tarding flood waters at their very source. Thus, it would enhance the efficiency and increase the effective life of reservoirs. It would assist in the job of fitting irrigation and farm production pattern, contributing to stabilization of population and the basin economy.

\* \* \*

**"IT WOULD** hasten completion of rural electrification and increase efficient use of electricity on farms. It would supply sources of credit to farmers for investments in conservation and irrigation. It would extend educational efforts on all phases of land, water and forest resource development, and thru soil surveys and specific research on these problems would expand our technical knowledge.

"In all its component and interdependent parts, the proposed agricultural program constitutes a basis for developing the watershed lands on a co-ordinate basis with the water resources of the Missouri river and its tributaries.

"The benefits of this program, together with the efforts of other federal and state development programs and with the efforts of the people of the basin, will accrue in the form of conservation of resources on more productive farms, ranches and forests, a fuller development of potential resources, and stability that comes from management of land to withstand adverse weather, drouth and floods," Young concluded.

wildlife growth.

#### Widespread Interest.

"Interest in the windbreak and shelterbelt planning is now widespread throughout the plains area of the basin," he said in a report.

It recalled that in the 1930's there was a co-operative shelterbelt planting program between farmers, state agencies and the government. Planting extended into the driest parts of the high plains.

"This joint undertaking has been terminated," the report said, "but the planting has continued at a reduced rate. Some 96,168 miles of shelterbelts and windbreaks have been established."

#### Benefits Listed.

In recommending continued shelterbelt work under the proposed \$3,092,000,000 overall program, the report said:

"The numerous benefits of a shelterbelt program include protection in all seasons to homes, livestock, gardens, orchards, fields, soil and water conservation, improved and protected highways in all seasons, added protection to wildlife and beauty to the landscape and an increased supply of fuelwood, post and other timber products."

No specific sum was recommended for the shelterbelt program.

LINCOLN STAR

## Brannan Outlines Project

### Suggested For Missouri Basin

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Values of three shelterbelt and windbreak plantings in the plains area of the Missouri river basin have been clearly demonstrated, Secretary of Agriculture Brannan said today, and they should be "greatly expanded."

Recommending a 30-year development program for the basin, Brannan said such plantings have been used successfully to protect buildings and roadways, check wind erosion, conserve moisture, shelter livestock and encourage



LINCOLN STAR

# Peterson Calls For Delayed Action On Brannan's Basin Plan

## Committee Will Study Program

**Report Presented  
By Lincoln Man**

RAPID CITY, S. D.—(AP)—On the suggestion of Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska, the Missouri basin inter-agency committee has delayed action on Secretary of Agriculture Brannan's three billion dollar program for basin conservation and development.

Gov. Peterson made the motion for delay at the committee's meeting here yesterday. He explained that none of the committee members has had time to study the plan.

"After we study it," he said, "maybe we'll be for it and get on our fighting clothes to fight for it. I'm not prepared to do that at this time."

The committee's move to delay action on the plan until its next meeting, took place at the end of the committee's 31st meeting.

During the meeting, Nebraska's governor declared, "I don't see where it is geared into the Missouri basin program."

And during the same discussion, Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota established that the program was in effect an eight and one-half billion dollar undertaking.

The only two governors attending the meeting began questioning Brannan's aides after the program was submitted for study. Gladwin E. Young, Lincoln, field representative of the department of agriculture, presented the voluminous report.

At times Young called on Ralph R. Will, an administrative assistant to Brannan, who helped prepare the program.

The secretary's five-point development program included conservation and improvement measures on grassland and cropland; forest and forest range development, and stabilizing measures for small water-courses, irrigation and drainage.

A large part of the proposed federal expenditures would go to farmers as payments for carrying out government recommended measures for protecting land from erosion. The program would cover all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming,

about half of Missouri and Kansas, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota.

Brannan plans to submit the program to congress later.

Peterson asked Young if the program could be divided, segregating the parts directly supplementing the basin program.

Young replied, "No, we don't want to do the program piecemeal."

Will said that the department would like to have the whole program approved by congress.

Peterson said he was sure "we couldn't get any action out of this congress if we presented such a program at this time."

Mickelson asked Young how much additional landowners, state and local governmental divisions would need to invest in the program. The federal cost would be \$3,092,328,000. Young said, in addition, farmers would invest about five billion and the governmental divisions a lesser amount. The governmental local share would be about 380 million.

### Protests Power Distribution.

Gov. Mickelson also protested what he called "the inequitable law for distribution of public power." He said under the plan of preference for public bodies, Nebraska would be eligible for more than half the power produced by North and South Dakota dams.

Nebraska has a state law setting up public power districts. A similar measure was defeated by the last South Dakota legislature.

The discussion came after a report on power distribution, given by John W. Walker, Billings, Mont., power manager for region six of the bureau of reclamation. He said a survey indicated power requests would reach 883,000 kilowatts when it becomes available. The applications by preference total 637,000 kilowatts, with Nebraska speaking for 367,000 of preferred kilowatts.

Aside from Nebraska, these states have turned in preference demands, Walker reported: "South Dakota 61,000 kilowatts; North Dakota 60,000; Minnesota 51,000; Iowa 58,000, and Missouri 40,000. Nebraska sources are also seeking about half of the secondary power produced by the dams, he said.

The next meeting of the committee will be July 21 at Helena, Mont.

LINCOLN STAR

## Basin Group Tours South Dakota Area

### ... To Inspect Projects

RAPID CITY, S. D. —(AP)The Missouri basin inter-agency committee was on a field trip of projects in western South Dakota today.

Members went on the tour after listing these accomplishments at yesterday's business session:

1. Brought South Dakota-Nebraska power distribution differences into the record with a protest against a Nebraska law by Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota.

2. Deferred action until July 21 at Helena, Mont., on Secretary of Agriculture C. F. Brannan's three billion dollar agriculture water conservation and development program.

3. Received report Nebraska had no objections to an appropriation to the bureau of reclamation for further investigation and reports on proposed Glendo dam project in Wyoming. Also decided to proceed with Nebraska-Wyoming-Colorado negotiations while the bureau of reclamation is completing its survey of the proposed project.

4. Heard protests by a Chamberlain, S. D., delegation on a high dam at Ft. Randall which would flood American island and other Chamberlain installations.

The third accomplishment refers to a telegram sent by Gov. Val Peterson to Nebraska's congressional delegation in April, following a Glendo dam meeting in Scottsbluff.

## Missouri Basin Work To Create 25,000 New Farms

### .. Triple Amount Of Hydro-Electric Power By 1970

Benefits from the Missouri Basin development program will far outweigh the cost and momentary disadvantages.

That was the opinion of federal officials here Monday for a summer session clinic at the University of Nebraska.

All agreed that the future of the plains states was interlocked with the development of the Missouri river basin.

#### Major Benefits.

The program will, they state:

1. Bring irrigation water to farms near the Cambridge area in 1951.

2. Mean re-location of over 4,000 farm families.

3. Bring irrigation to some five million acres of land, resulting in 25 thousand new farms in the Missouri basin.

4. Cause an increase in agricultural resources, and tend to stop diminishing farm population.

5. Triple the amount of hydro-electric power by 1970, as compared to 1946, supplied to midwest industry.

Gladwin E. Young, of Lincoln, field representative for the U. S. department of agriculture, said his department estimates an expenditure of three billion dollars over the 30 year development period, besides the over-all cost of engineering work.

#### Benefits Above Cost.

"If the costs, as expected movement of over 4,000 families, exceed the benefits the area may derive, congress may reject the plan. So far, however, benefits have exceeded costs."

"Some returns from the program will come in dollars, others in added benefits to the region," said Avery A. Batson, Denver, regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation. "The greatest benefit will be through establishment of family-size farms, about 160 acres in size," he said.

Increase in small industry and demand will bring an estimated tripling of the peak hydroelectric load in the basin by 1970, B. H. Greene, Chicago,

regional engineer for the federal power commission, predicted.

"The 1946 total power load was over three million kilowatts. By 1970, the peak will be near 9,442,000 kilowatts.

\*Ralph W. Sullivan, Omaha, district manager of the department of commerce, said while estimates were difficult, the completed pro-

gram would be beneficial to business and increase population. Greene said his department estimated a farm population drop of 1,207,000 by 1970, with a increase in the industrial class living in the basin.

Corps of Engineers' figures of land affected were given by Gen. Sturgis. He estimated that "land flooded by reservoir areas would be less than one fourth the value of the land protected."

Young emphasized that "there has been a greater decline in farm population in the Missouri basin from 1935-40 than nationally." He listed mechanization of farm labor, and city migration as causes of decline.

#### Conflicts At Minimum.

Batson said there has "been considerable concern over so-called conflicts" among agencies involved in the program. "If these did not develop, then the people should worry," Batson added. He and Gen. Sturgis said troubles had been minimum.

When questioned regarding the Hoover commission report during the press conference the five men attended, Batson answered the commission's charge that the job "was being done backwards," simply:

"It may be done backwards, but isn't that traditionally the case. The work is done where there is a demand."

He and Gen. Sturgis both agreed that work should "proceed as it is now." "That is the economical thing to do," Batson stated.

#### Favor Present Plan.

"It is a question of whether we let floods and suffering continue or whether we go ahead with developments and try to expedite stream developments cutting siltation," Batson added.

Both endorse the proposed agricultural program which would stress the job of conservation of cropland and grassland, shelterbelts and forest improvement to aid siltation and flood control. But both favored continuing present practices of immediate controls by dams and reservoirs, with introduction of soil conservation checks as quickly as possible.



LINCOLN STAR

—N. U. Clinic—

# U. S. Needs Full Basin Development

## Co-Ordinated Work On Watershed Lands Urged For Missouri

The Missouri River basin is a national asset still awaiting full development, Gladwin Young, Lincoln, field representative of the U. S. department of agriculture, told a University of Nebraska audience Monday.

In an address to a luncheon meeting in connection with the university summer session clinic on Missouri basin development, Young said hazards of weather, extremes in production and income, and population instability present a challenge to the nation.

### Need Co-ordinated Plan.

"The flood control act of 1944, which authorized the Pick-Sloan plan, was designed to partially meet this challenge," Young continued; "through this act the nation gave concrete expression to a policy of investment in basinwide resource development for this important area.

"But comprehensive resource development cannot be attained alone by engineering development to impound and use the waters of the rivers. The rivers and watershed lands must be considered together. This act was recognized early by the Missouri basin inter-agency committee."

Young said a new and outstanding landmark in co-ordinated river basin planning has been accomplished by the preparation of an agricultural plan for the Missouri river basin. It is drafted in a form that, when approved by congress, will become the basic authorization under which the U. S. department of agriculture and the agricultural colleges can more adequately carry out the agricultural phases of Missouri basin development.

### 30 Year Program

"The plan proposes an authorization for a 30-year period, the details of which are specifically set forth for authorization. It is based on established principles of participation of government with co-operating land owners and operators. It would accelerate and complement existing agriculture programs. It would telescope the

job of conservation of cropland and grassland into a 30-year period instead of a hundred years," he said.

"It would increase shelterbelts and improve the forests that protect valuable water supplies. It would contribute to flood control and reduce siltation by retarding flood waters at their very source. Thus, it would enhance the efficiency and increase the effective life of reservoirs. It would assist in the job of fitting irrigation and farm production pattern, contributing to stabilization of population and the basin economy.

"It would hasten completion of rural electrification, increase efficient use of electricity on farms and would supply sources of credit to farmers for investments in conservation and irrigation. It would extend educational efforts on all phases of land, water and forest resource development, and through soil surveys and specific research on these problems would expand our technical knowledge.

"In all its component and interdependent parts, the proposed agricultural program constitutes a basis for developing the watershed lands on a co-ordinate basis with the water resources of the Missouri river and its tributaries.

"The benefits of this program, together with the efforts of other federal and state development programs and with the efforts of the people of the basin, will accrue in the form of conservation of resources on more productive farms, ranches and forests, a fuller development of potential resources, and stability that comes from management of land to withstand adverse weather, drought and floods," Young concluded.

Harry G. Gould, director of agricultural extension at the university, presided at the luncheon.

This evening, Brig. Gen. S. D. Sturgis, jr., U. S. division engineer, Omaha; and Shelton Streater of the U. S. bureau of reclamation's regional branch of project planning, Denver, will be speakers at a public meeting beginning at 7:30 p. m. Dean Roy M. Green of the college of engineering and architecture, will preside.

OMAHA WORLD HEARLD

# 3-Billion U. S. Program Told by Brannan

## Farmers Would Spend Several Times More to Use All Water

Workers at Pickstown, S. D., Thursday were preparing to drill 12 large tunnels for power generation and flood control at the Fort Randall Dam site. In Washington, World-Herald Bureau Member Julian Bradbury reported that the Brannan conservation plan for the Missouri basin may cost a total of more than eight billion dollars. Stories on Pages 5 and 11.

Compiled from Press Dispatches.

Agriculture Secretary Brannan Thursday proposed a \$3,092,000,000 program to speed development and conservation of farm resources in the Missouri River Basin.

He said the program would do in 30 years what otherwise would take 100 years and more money at the present rate of progress.

The Secretary pointed out that his plan would supplement the five-million-dollar flood-control plan for the Missouri River and tributaries under the Pick-Sloan Plan.

He stated that the Government now is spending about 33 million dollars a year on agricultural conservation programs in the area. The Secretary proposed a yearly outlay of 100 million dollars to speed up the job.

### Most of Cost to Farmers

For every Federal dollar that farmers got for conservation activities, the report said, farmers and landowners would be expected to spend \$3 or \$4. Thus, private spending under the plan might total about \$7,500,000,000, the United Press reported.

The plan is aimed at getting the basin's 582 thousand farmers and ranchers to build hundreds of ponds, upstream dams, fences, shelterbelts and other works. Farmers would change practices on millions of acres of cropland and ranges.

The idea is to hold back and profitably use water in the basin, thereby building "a stable foundation for agriculture in a region where drouth is an unusually high risk."

### Committee Gets Report

The area in the program would include all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.



## OMAHA WORLD HERALD

about half of Missouri and Kansas, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota.

The report was made public in Washington and at Rapid City, S. D., where the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee met Thursday. The committee is composed of representatives of the Agriculture, Interior and Commerce Departments, the Army Engineers, the Federal Power Commission, and Governors of Missouri basin states.

Mr. Brannan said he expects to submit the program to Congress later, after it has been checked and approved by the Budget Bureau.

### Protect Investment

The Secretary said the program would contribute greatly to the problem of controlling floods, because it would be designed to help hold water back on the land, where it is needed to grow crops, ranges, forests, and the like.

He said it also would help protect the public investment in the 105 big flood control reservoirs envisioned by the Pick-Sloan Plan by reducing the rate at which they would fill up with soil sediment.

The proposed Federal spending would be as follows:

Conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland \$1,189,630,000.

Forest and forest range land conservation \$493,609,000.

Projects to stabilize small water courses \$1,005,400,000.

Aid of irrigation \$201,310,000.

Improving drainage of farm land \$31,942,000.

Soil surveys and land classification \$28,620,000.

Research on ways of improving farm and forestry production in the basin \$51,305,000.

Extension education of farmers in new methods \$60,074,000.

Expanded farm credit facilities for affected farmers \$30,300,000.

Special studies in rural electrification needs 138 thousand dollars.

Major phases of the program include:

Improved land management on a large part of the basin's 113 million acres of cropland "to assure their employment in the best adapted uses, to control erosion and halt depletion, and to retard flood waters at their very source."

### Spur Legumes, Manure

This, would mean, the report said, seeding of grass and legumes on 20 million acres of land now being depleted by continuous use; green manure and cover crops every year to protect 13 million acres of barren land; stubble mulching 34 million acres of grain crops to prevent erosion; strip cropping and contour farming on 63,500,000 acres; and 1,900,000 miles of terraces to retain water or to dispose of it in safety.

Similar treatment was proposed for 157,500,000 acres of range and pasture land.

To help develop and stabilize a larger livestock industry, the program proposes 500 thousand new ponds, 80 thousand springs and seeps, 78 thousand wells for water. Grazing land would be protected with 166 thousand miles of fire guards.

### Check Wind Erosion

To conserve and develop forests the program would plant trees on five million acres of forest land and on 400 thousand acres of range land. It also proposes construction of lookout towers, roads, trails and fire crew stations to provide better fire protection.

The plan also calls for planting of more than 2,500,000 acres of shelter belts and windbreaks to conserve moisture, check wind erosion, and to protect livestock and crops.

To help stabilize small watercourses, Mr. Brannan proposed the building of between 14 thousand and 16 thousand small upstream dams and four hundred to six hundred desilting and debris basins; 4,500 to 5,500 miles of minor floodways, 10 thousand to 12 thousand miles of small channel improvements, and 60 thousand to 70 thousand miles of water diversion ditches and dikes to route flood water from eroded land and terraced fields.

### Similar to SCS

The Brannan conservation measures would be of two general types—one permanent and semi-permanent in nature, and the other a year-to-year type of operation.

The first type is along the lines now being carried on by the department's Soil Conservation Service. It includes measures designed to stabilize small water courses through use of dams, floodways, diversion ditches, and sodding of banks of small streams.

This type of work would be carried out through co-operation with local government units, particularly soil conservation districts, with the Federal Government bearing a major part of the cost of installation.

The other type includes measures now being administered by the department's Production and Marketing Administration, successor to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. It includes strip cropping, contour farming, seeding cropland to grasses and cover crops, stubble mulching, application of lime to the soil.

These latter types of conservation measures would be carried out by individual farmers. The de-

partment would offer them payments designed to cover a part of the cost. But only one payment would be made for each conservation practice or measure carried out, and that would be on the initial installation or operation. No payment would be made each succeeding year for carrying out the particular measure.

Department officials said it was believed that once farmers had adopted the conservation measures, they would see the benefit and continue them of their own accord.

Of course, a farmer would be free to discard the conservation measures as he saw fit. But continuance of the measures might be required, they said, as a condition for a farmer being eligible for Government price supports for his crops and products.

### Cites Population Drop

Mr. Brannan also pointed out that failure to keep pace with the population growth of the United States as a whole is a major concern of people of the Missouri River basin.

"Although the national population has increased more than 30 percent since 1920, the population of the basin has increased very little," he said.

Non-farm population, Mr. Brannan's report said, has shown an increase of 26 per cent in the basin since 1920 but it also falls behind the 55 per cent increase in non-farm population in other parts of the nation and does not make up for the loss in farm population.

"These trends," the report added, "have occurred in spite of the large natural increase in the area. Migration to other areas has about equalled the natural increase in the basin's population."

The department said people in the basin are asking why opportunities should not be created and are ready to support sound development programs that would result in sustained production of agriculture and steady growth in industries.



OMAHA WORLD HERALD

# Brannan Plan Cost of 8.5 Billions Seen

By Julian Bradbury

World-Herald Washington Bureau,  
1374 National Press Building.

The most important thing to know about the proposed three-billion-dollar comprehensive Department of Agriculture plan for the Missouri Basin is that it isn't a three-billion-dollar program at all.

It is a program scheduled to cost \$3,516,217,575.

Those are the actual estimates of the department for this 30-year program made public Thursday. But the only overall figure which is totaled for consumption of the casual reader is \$3,092,328,000 in anticipated Federal costs.

You have to dig figures from eight different tables buried throughout the report in order to find out the actual proposed cost of this mammoth program.

The difference is a \$5,423,889,575 estimated cost to state and local governments and to farmers individually.

Compare those figures—eight billions total, three billions Federal, five billions state and local—to the relatively modest \$3,900,000,000 the Soil Conservation and Forest Services estimated as total Federal and non-Federal costs of their now-buried flood control program for the basin.

What will the money buy?

The biggest of 10 phases of the program is a \$4,800,000,000 item for "conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland." Federal cost is estimated at \$1,189,630,000 of that sum—the rest is private.

This, apparently, is a broad-scale "conservation payments" program—like that of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Included are stock ponds, fertilizer, wells, fences and rodent control, which Uncle Sam will pay for, at least in part, the report says.

Next biggest investment will be \$1,616,000,000 for flood control measures worked out in the original plan—\$1,005,400,000 Federal costs.

These include small upstream dams, flood ways, channel improvements and diversion ditches. The comprehensive plan calls for almost identical work goals with those recommended in the original flood control report—14 thousand to 16 thousand small upstream flood retarding structures, etc.—at a price half-a-billion dollars less than original estimates.

Other features of the plan include:

**Forests**—Replanting, thinning, fence-building, development of winter sports areas, construction of 1,120 forest airfields for fire-fighting planes—\$1,028,722,000. Federal share is \$493,609,000.

**Irrigation**—For planning new irrigation on 6.5 million acres, rejuvenating present irrigation systems, making soil surveys and passing out "recommendations for control, distribution and application of irrigation water"—\$687,625,000, with the Federal portion \$201,310,000.

**Drainage Improvement**—One hundred three million dollars total; soil surveys, 28 millions; research program (for 10 years), 64 millions; extension education, 83 millions; credit program, so the farmer can get loans, 30 millions; rural electrification studies, 138 thousand.

One thing it doesn't include—the ratio of estimated benefits to costs. The original flood control survey of the Missouri Basin said \$2.60 in benefits would be returned for every dollar invested, but nothing like that appears in this comprehensive plan.

OMAHA WORLD HERALD

## Soil Program of Brannan Is Challenged

### Gov. Peterson Doubts Plan Is Geared to River Basin Needs

Rapid City, S. D. (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Brannan's three billion dollar 30-year program for conservation and development met a challenge Thursday.

Nebraska's Gov. Val Peterson declared, "I don't see where it is geared into the Missouri Basin program."

Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota established that the program was in effect an \$8,500,000,000 undertaking.

The only two Governors attending the thirty-first meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee began questioning Mr. Brannan's aids after the program was submitted for study. Gladwin E. Young, field representative of the Department of Agriculture, presented the voluminous report.

#### Would Pay Farmers

At times Mr. Young called on Ralph R. Will an administrative assistant to Mr. Brannan, who helped prepare the program.

The Secretary's five-point development program included conservation and improvement measures on grassland and cropland; forest and forest range development, and stabilizing measures for small water-courses, irrigation and drainage.

A large part of the proposed Federal expenditures would go to farmers as payments for carrying out Government recommended measures for protecting land from erosion. The program would cover all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of Missouri and Kansas and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota.

#### Don't Want Split-up

Mr. Brannan plans to submit the program to Congress later.

Governor Peterson asked Mr. Young if the program could be divided, segregating the parts directly supplementing the Basin program.

The Inter-agency Committee acts as a clearing house for Basin problems and requests. This is so a united front can be presented when Congress is asked for funds.

Mr. Young replied, "No, we don't want to do the program piecemeal."

Both Governors emphasized they were not "entering into the merits of the proposed program at this time." They said they had not had enough time to study it.

Governor Mickelson asked Mr. Young how much money land owners, state and local governmental divisions would need to invest in the program. The Federal cost would be \$3,092,328,000, Mr. Young said.

In addition, farmers would invest about five billion and the governmental divisions a lesser amount. The governmental local share would be about 380 million.

Agriculture Secretary Brannan said his conservation program would do in 30 years what otherwise would take one hundred years and more money at the present rate of progress.

The Secretary pointed out that his plan would supplement the five-billion-dollar flood-control plan for the Missouri River and tributaries under the Pick-Sloan Plan.

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## OMAHA WORLD HERALD

# Plan for Basin Will Telescope 100-Year Job

## Young Says Challenge of Missouri Being Met for Valley Benefit

World-Herald Lincoln Bureau,  
505 Federal Securities Building.

The Missouri Basin agricultural development program will telescope a one-hundred-year job into 30 years, Gladwin E. Young, field representative of the United States Department of Agriculture, said Monday.

He spoke at the two-day Missouri Basin development clinic being held on the University of Nebraska campus. The clinic is the third in a series of University summer session programs dedicated to issues of public interest.

Mr. Young said the agricultural program for the Missouri Basin, now being readied for Congressional authorization, will "accelerate and complement existing agriculture programs" being carried on now by the Department of Agriculture and Colleges of Agriculture.

### Challenge to Nation

"The Missouri River Basin is a great national asset still awaiting full development," Mr. Young said. "The hazards of weather, extremes in production and income and population instability present a challenge to the nation. The Flood Control Act of 1944, which authorized the Pick-Sloan plan, was designed to partially meet this challenge."

"But comprehensive resource development cannot be attained alone by engineering development to impound and use the waters of the rivers. The rivers and watersheds must be considered together, a



fact which was considered early by the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee."

#### Many Benefits

Mr. Young said the agricultural development would increase shelterbelts and improve the forests that protect valuable water supplies," Mr. Young said. "It would contribute to flood control and reduce siltation by retarding flood waters at their very source.

"It would assist in fitting irrigation and farm drainage into an efficient farm production pattern, contributing to stabilization of population and the basin economy. It would hasten completion of rural electrification. It would supply sources of credit to farmers for investment in conservation and irrigation.

#### RAPID CITY JOURNAL

# Governors From Five States Due For MBA Talks Here

## Two-Day Sessions Open Tomorrow

Governors from five states, or their representatives, and delegates from five federal agencies are scheduled to arrive in Rapid City today to take part in the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency meeting which will start early tomorrow for a two-day session.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. in the ballroom at the Alex Johnson hotel and last throughout the day.

An Inter-Agency subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Don Huff, secretary of the committee, will hold a meeting at the Alex Johnson hotel today to plan a six-year program for federal and state departments in regard to Missouri Basin development. The six-year program is revised yearly, and will be submitted to the committee tomorrow for approval.

#### Governors On Way

Governor Val Peterson, of Nebraska, has notified the committee

chairman, W. G. Sloan, of Billings, that he will be present at the meeting. Governor Mickelson, of South Dakota, is expected to arrive late today.

No definite word has been received from Governors Forrest Smith, of Missouri, John Bonner of Montana, or Fred G. Aandahl of North Dakota, but it is expected that either they, or their representatives will be present when the meeting gets underway in the morning.

Several representatives of the Department of Agriculture have sent word that they plan to attend the meeting. One of the high-lights of this meet will be

the long awaited Department of Agriculture report on a Conservation and Agricultural plan for the Missouri Basin.

#### Army Engineer Envoys

Representing the Army Engineers will be Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, who recently was named to replace General Pick as Missouri River Division head. Pick, who is co-author of the Pick-Sloan plan for Missouri Basin development which still remains as Inter-Agency's civil Bible, is now chief of the Army Engineers.

B. H. Greene, Federal Power Commission; Gladwin E. Young, Department of Agriculture; and Charles E. Brokaw, Department of Commerce, are others who represent the federal membership on the committee.

From 1933 to 1945, the report said, the loss was about 750,000 farm people or 25 percent—greater than in the rest of the nation.

After World War II it noted there was some return to farms in parts of the basin but added there is evidence that the farm population is again declining.

Non-farm population, it said, has shown an increase of 26 percent in the basin since 1920 but it also falls behind the 55 percent increase in non-farm population in other parts of the nation and does not make up for the loss in farm population.

"These trends," the report added "have occurred in spite of the large natural increase in the area. Migration to other areas has about equalled the natural increase in the basin's population."

The department said people in the basin are asking why opportunities should not be created and are ready to support sound development programs that would result in sustained production of agriculture and steady growth in industries.

#### RAPID CITY JOURNAL

## Basin Folk Fail On Population, Brannan Says

Washington, May 26—(AP)—Failure to keep pace with the population growth of the United States as a whole is a major concern of people of the Missouri river basin, Secretary of Agriculture Brannan says.

In a report proposing a 30-year \$3,092,000,000 agricultural development program for the area, he commented:

"Although the national population has increased more than 30 percent since 1920, the population of the basin has increased very little.

"The farm population of the basin reached its peak about 1920 but an ensuing small decline was recovered by 1933. From that time farm population showed a steady decline until 1945."

RAPID CITY JOURNAL

# 3-Billion-Dollar Program Submitted By Brannan; Notables Pack Rapid City

## 30-Year Plan Has Many Backers

Secretary of Agriculture Brannan proposed today a \$3,092,000,000 program for speeding up development and conservation of agricultural resources in the Missouri River basin.

The program would supplement a \$5,000,000,000 flood-control plan for the Missouri river and its main tributaries already authorized by congress and known as the "Pick-Sloan plan."

### It's 'Imperative'

In a report Brannan said his program is "imperative if we are to preserve the resources with which the basin is richly endowed and assure their full employment for the continuing good of the people."

The bulk of the proposed federal expenditures would be used to make payments to farmers for carrying out government recommended measures for protecting the land from erosion. A major objective would be a return of much cropland to pastures for livestock grazing.

The area which would be covered by the program includes all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of Missouri and Kansas, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota.

### Report Made Public

The report was made public in Washington and Rapid City where the Missouri Basin Interagency committee, an advisory group to the secretary, is meeting. The committee is composed of representatives of the agriculture, interior and commerce department, the army engineers, the federal power commission, and governors of Missouri basin states.

Brannan said he expects to submit the program to congress later, after it has been checked and approved by the budget bureau.

### Aids Flood Control

The secretary said the program would contribute greatly to the problem of controlling floods, because it would be designed to help hold water back on the land, where it is needed to grow crops, ranges, forests and the like.

He said it also would help protect the public investment in the 105 big flood control reservoirs envisioned by the Pick-Sloan plan by reducing the rate at which they would fill up with soil sediment.

### Here's the Plan

The proposed federal spending would be as follows:

Conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland—\$1,189,630,000.

Forest and forest range land conservation—\$493,609,000.

Projects to stabilize small watercourses—\$1,005,400,000.

Aid of irrigation—\$201,310,000.

Improving drainage of farm land—\$31,942,000.

Soil surveys and land classification—\$28,620,000.

Research on ways of improving farm and forestry production in the basin—\$51,305,000.

Extension education of farmers in new methods—\$60,074,000.

Expanded farm credit facilities for affected farmers—\$30,300,000.

Special studies in rural electrification needs—\$138,000.

### Major Phases

Brannan proposed that \$100,000,000 a year be spent on these projects. Roughly \$33,000,000 a year is being spent on them now.

Major phases of the program include:

Improved land management on a large part of the basin's 113,000,000 acres of cropland "to assure their employment in the best adapted uses, to control erosion and halt depletion, and to retard flood waters at their very source."

This would mean, the report said, seeding of grass and legumes on 20,000,000 acres of land now being depleted by continuous use; green manure and cover crops every year to protect 13,000,000 acres of barren land; stubble mulching 34,000,000.



## RAPID CITY JOURNAL

600 acres of grain crops to prevent erosion; strip cropping and contour farming on 63,500,000 acres; and 1,900,000 miles of terraces to retain water or to dispose of it in safety.

Similar treatment was proposed for 157,500,000 acres of range and pasture land.

To help develop and stabilize a larger livestock industry, the program proposes 500,000 new ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps, 78,000 wells for water. Grazing land would be protected with 166,000 miles of fire guards.

To conserve and develop forests the program would plant trees on 5,000,000 acres of forest land and on 400,000 acres of range land. It also proposes construction of lookout towers, roads, trails and fire crew stations to provide better fire protection.

The plan also calls for planting of more than 2,500,000 acres of shelter-belts and windbreaks to conserve moisture, check wind erosion, and to protect livestock, crops and furniture.

To help stabilize small water-courses, Brannan proposed the building of between 14,000 and 16,000 small upstream dams and 400 to 600 desilting and debris basins, 4,500 to 5,500 miles of minor floodways, \$10,000 to 12,000 miles of small stream channel improvements, and 60,000 to 70,000 miles of water diversion ditches and dikes to route flood water from eroded land and terraced fields.

"The program will be accomplished, in the main," the report said, "by encouraging farmers and private owners to protect their land from erosion and depletion and to operate their farms and ranches so as to withstand the punishment adverse weather inflicts on land and people."

The report estimated farmers and landowners would spend three to four times as much as the federal government in carrying out the proposed program.

The plan was described as "novel in its magnitude." Its methods were said to be "time-tested, scientific practices and structures."

The Brannan conservation measures would be of two general types—one permanent and semi-permanent in nature, and the other a year-to-year type of operation.

The first type is along the lines now being carried on by the department's soil conservation service. It includes measures designed to stabilize small water courses through use of dams, floodways, diversion ditches, and sodding of banks of small streams.

This type of work would be carried out through cooperation with

local government units, particularly soil conservation districts, with the federal government bearing a major part of the cost of installation.

The other type includes measures now being administered by the department's production and marketing administration, successor to the agricultural adjustment administration. It includes strip cropping, contour farming, seeding cropland to grasses and cover crops, stubble mulching, application of lime to the soil.

These latter types of conservation measures would be carried out by individual farmers. The department would offer them payments designed to cover a part of the cost. But only one payment would be made for each conservation practice or measure carried out, and that would be on the initial installation or operation. No payment would be made each succeeding year for carrying out the particular measure.

Department officials said it was believed that once farmers had adopted the conservation measures, they would see the benefit and continue them of their own accord.

Of course, a farmer would be free to discard the conservation measures as he saw fit. But continuance of the measures might be required, they said, as a condition for a farmer being eligible for government price supports for his crops and products.

## RAPID CITY JOURNAL

### Notables To Attend Banquet Tonight

Two state governors and representatives from five federal agencies topped the list of dignitaries present as the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency sessions opened in Rapid City today.

W. G. Sloan, who co-authored the Pick-Sloan Plan for Missouri Basin development and is now chairman of the Inter-Agency committee, called the meeting to order at 9 a. m. in the Alex Johnson hotel ballroom.

#### Notables Present

Those in attendance included Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota, Governor Val Peterson of Nebraska, and Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, new head of the Corps of Army Engineers, Missouri river division.

The meeting was packed at the opening with officials from the Department of Agriculture,

Interior Department, Corps of Army Engineers, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Reclamation and other government agencies.

The group will be entertained at a banquet at the hotel tonight by the Chamber of Commerce following the busy all-day session.

Tomorrow they will tour the southern Black Hills, making inspection trips to Deerfield and Angostura dams. They will have lunch tomorrow noon at the Hot Springs Country club, sponsored by the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. The meeting will be brought to a close tomorrow night at the completion of the tour.

The inter-agency committee today was handed a three-billion-dollar agricultural program to study, as it undertook a six-subject agenda.

It was a comprehensive 30-year program of conservation and development of agricultural resources. Backers of the suggestions by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan hastened to explain that it would not augment the already multi-billion dollar river program by a full three billion.

#### Ad Two Billion

Gladwin E. Young, field representative for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, said it would in effect add two billion to the river program over a 30-year period.

He said, "What it does is to accelerate the present program for soil conservation, forestry management and drainage. At the present rate of spending the program would take 100 years, instead of 30."

"The total job will be done in small pieces—each by itself not spectacular," he said. "In the aggregate, however, there is nothing more spectacular nor more significant to be done in the Missouri basin than the installation and application of the conservation and production measures proposed. It covers our watershed, ranges and forests."

#### Doubles Service Rate

He said the program doubles the rate of technical service and increases the direct aid by about 43 percent to assist farmers and ranchers with grassland and cropland conservation.

"There is no new authority involved, except the allocation of funds," he said. "We are now investing federal funds in the program at the rate of \$1,007,780,000 for a 30-year period. This program proposes an investment of \$3,092,328,000."

Also on the agency's program today was discussion of power distribution from federally built plants. The other subjects were progress reports.



SIOUX FALLS ARGUS-LEADER

# Brannan Proposes Missouri Basin Farm Conservation Plan

## WOULD SPEND 3 MILLIONS ON PROGRAM

### Agriculture Secretary An- nounces Scheme at Rapid City Event

By OVID A. MARTIN

Washington, May 26—(P)—Secretary of Agriculture Brannan proposed today a \$3,092,000,000 program for speeding up development and conservation of agricultural resources in the Missouri river basin.

He said the program would do in 30 years what otherwise would take 100 years—and very much more money—at the present rate of progress.

The program would supplement a \$5,000,000,000 flood-control plan for the Missouri river and its main tributaries already authorized by Congress and known as the "Pick-Sloan plan."

#### Program 'Imperative'

In a report Brannan said his program is "imperative if we are to preserve the resources with which the basin is richly endowed and assure their full employment for the continuing good of the people."

The bulk of the proposed federal expenditures would be used to make payments to farmers for carrying out government recommended measures for protecting the land from erosion. A major objective would be a return of much cropland to pastures for livestock-grazing.

The area which would be covered by the program includes all of Nebraska, mostly of South Dakota, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of

Missouri and Kansas, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota.

#### Attends Meeting

The report was made public here and at Rapid City, S. D., where river inter-agency committee was meeting. The committee is composed of representatives of the Agriculture, Interior and Commerce departments, the Army engineers, the Federal Power Commission, and governors of Missouri basin states.

Brannan said he expects to submit the program to Congress later, after it has been checked and approved by the budget bureau.

The secretary said the program would contribute greatly to the problem of controlling floods, because it would be designed to help hold water back on the land, where it is needed to grow crops, ranges, forests, and the like.

#### Would Protect Reservoirs

He said it also would help protect the public investment in the 105 big control reservoirs envisioned by the Pick-Sloan plan by reducing the rate at which they would fill up with soil sediments.

The proposed federal spending would be as follows:

Conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland—\$1,189,630,000.

Forest and forest range land conservation—\$493,609,000.

Projects to stabilize small water-courses—\$1,005,400,000.

Aid of irrigation—\$201,310,000.

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Extension education of farmers in new methods—\$60,074,000.

Expanded farm credit facilities for affected farmers—\$30,300,000.

Special studies in rural electrification needs—\$138,000.

#### 33 Millions Spent Now

Brannan proposed that \$100,000,000 a year be spent on these projects. Roughly \$33,000,000 a year is being spent on them now.

Major phases of the program include:

Improved land management on a large part of the basin's 113,000,000 acres of cropland "to assure their employment in the best adapted uses, to control erosion and halt depletion, and to retard flood waters at their very source."

This would mean, the report said, seeding of grass and legumes on 20,000,000 acres of land now being depleted by continuous use; green manure and cover crops every year to protect 13,900,000 acres of barren land; stubble mulching 34,000,000 acres of grain crops to prevent erosion; strip cropping and contour farming on 63,500,000 acres; and 1,900,000 miles of terraces to retain water or to dispose of it in safety.

Similar treatment was proposed for 157,500,000 acres of range and pasture land.

To help develop and stabilize a larger livestock industry, the program proposes 500,000 new ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps, 78,000 wells for water. Grazing land would be protected with 166,000 miles of fire guards.

To conserve and develop forests the program would plant trees on 5,000,000 acres of forest land and on 400,000 acres of range land. It also proposes construction of lookout towers, roads, trails and fire crew stations to provide better fire protection.

The plan also calls for planting of more than 2,500,000 acres of shelterbelts and windbreaks to conserve moisture, check wind erosion, and to protect livestock, crops and furniture.

#### More Dams Proposed

To help stabilize small water-courses, Brannan proposed the building of between 14,000 and 16,000 small upstream dams and 400 to 600 desilting and debris basins; 4,500 to 5,500 miles of minor floodways, 10,000 to 12,000 miles of small



stream channel improvements, and 60,000 to 70,000 miles of water diversion ditches and dikes to route flood water from eroded land and terraced fields.

"The program will be accomplished, in the main," the report said, "by encouraging farmers and private owners to protect their land from erosion and depletion and to operate their farms and ranches so as to withstand the punishment adverse weather inflicts on land and people."

The report estimated farmers and landowners would spend three to four times as much as the federal government in carrying out the proposed program.

The plan was described as "novel in its magnitude. Its methods were said to be 'time-twisted. Scientific practices and structures.'"

## **SIOUX FALLS ARGUS-LEADER**

# **Brannan's Plan for Soil Work Is Challenged**

## **Nebraska, S. D. Governors Raise Question at Rapid City Meeting**

Rapid City, May 26—(P)—Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan's three billion dollar 30-year program for conservation and development met a challenge today.

Nebraska's Gov. Val Peterson declared, "I don't see where it is geared into the Missouri basin program."

And during the same discussion, Gov. George T. Mickelson of South Dakota established that the program was in effect an eight and one-half billion dollar undertaking.

### **Questions Fired**

The only two governors attending the 31st meeting of the Missouri basin inter-agency committee began firing questions at aides of Brannan after the program was submitted for study. Bladwin E. Young, field representative of the USDA, presented the voluminous report.

At times Young called on Ralph R. Will, an administrative assistant to Brannan. Who helped prepare the prog

(The committee acts as a clearing house for basin problems and requests so a more nearly united front can be presented when Congress is asked for funds. Membership includes five governors and four general agency representatives, including the USDA.)

Young replied, "No, we don't want to do the program piecemeal."

Will said that the department would like to have the whole program approved by Congress, "although much can be done by the existing machinery. We need the program authorized for timing so we can get annual appropriations to carry it forward."

Will said the supporting activities, such as research and educational program by extension agents, "are vital to make the investment in an agricultural conservation program sounder."

Peterson said he was sure "we couldn't get any action out of this Congress if we presented such a program at this time."

### **Private Costs Issue**

Both governors emphasized they were not "entering into the merits of the proposed program at this time." They said they had not had sufficient time to study it.

Mickelson asked Young how much additional landowners, state and local governmental divisions would need to invest in the program. The federal cost would be \$3,092,328,000, Young said. In addition, farmers would invest about five billion and the governmental divisions a lesser amount. The governmental local share would be about 380 million.

Young earlier had said that the 30-year comprehensive program would in effect add two billion dollars to the multi-billion dollar development program.

Peterson asked Young if the program could be divided, segregating that more directly supplementing the basin program.

DENVER POST

# PONDS, SHELTER BELTS TERRACING PROPOSED

WASHINGTON, May 26.—(UP)—Secretary \* of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan Thursday unfolded a 10-billion-dollar plan to safeguard the fertile farmlands of the great Missouri basin against erosion, flood and "another great drouth."

It calls for the federal government to spend 100 million dollars a year for the next thirty years to complete the job of conserving the area's farms, ranges, forests and streams. Local farmers and ranchers would match each federal dollar with three or four of their own.

Federal spending in the area now is running only about one-third of that contemplated under Brannan's program.

He said at that rate it would take a century to finish the project and that it might never be completed because of constant deterioration. He said the delay might be critical because history shows great drouths have occurred in the region every thirty or forty years.

Brannan used 40,000 words and some two dozen maps and charts to explain his plan. He made the proposal public after sending it to the budget bureau to be forwarded to congress.

## SUPPLEMENT DAMS.

The Missouri's muddy waters flow from ten states, draining one-sixth of the nation's land and one-fourth of its farmlands. The basin stretches across the Dakotas and Nebraska west into Montana, Colorado and south into Missouri and Kansas.

Brannan said his plan would only "supplement"—not replace—the 5-billion-dollar Pick-Sloan plan for a series of dams, reservoirs and irrigation projects to harness the waters of the big river system. More than one-half billion dollars already has been spent on that program.

The plan would operate at "grass roots" level—on the streams, forests, ranges and croplands. About 2,200 million dollars of the funds would be paid directly to land owners as part payment for conservation projects and soil and forest-conserving practices.

## BUILD WATER TABLE.

It calls for construction and improvement of one-half million farm ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps and 78,000 wells. It also would entail 1,900,000 miles of water-retaining terraces, 166,000 of forest firewalls and 65,000 miles of fencing, 2,000 miles of cattle trails, 2 and one-half million acres of shelter belts and 14,000 to 16,000 small upstream dams.

It envisions an increase in livestock production in the area and a cutback in soil-depleting field crops. Some 20 million acres would

be shifted to grasses and legumes.

Brannan said the idea is to build up the underground water table "thereby building a stable foundation for agriculture in a region where drouth is an unusually high risk." He said unwise land practices in the area is making it "increasingly vulnerable" to drouth.

DENVER POST

## \$10-Billion Basin State Move Hailed

By ROBERT W. FENWICK.  
Rocky Mountain Empire Editor of  
The Denver Post.

RAPID CITY, S. D., May 26.—Disclosure of a 10-billion-dollar agricultural program for states in the Missouri river basin was greeted with enthusiasm Thursday at the two-day inter-agency committee meeting being conducted here at the Axel Johnson hotel.

Gladwin E. Young, field representative of the department of agriculture, represented the bureau here at the meeting attended by Governors George T. Mickelson of South Dakota and Val Peterson of Nebraska.

A summary of estimated total costs of the huge program to the federal government was given as follows:

1—The program conservation and improvement of grassland and crop land, \$1,189,630,000 for the entire program period.

2—Development of forest and range lands, \$493,609,000.

3—Stabilizing measures for small stock production in the area and water courses, \$1,005,400,000.

4—Aid for irrigation projects, \$201,310,000.

5—Drainage improvement of agricultural lands, \$31,942,000.

6—Soil surveys and land classification, \$28,620,000.

7—Research and investigations, \$51,305,000.

8—Extension education, \$60,074,000.

9—A supporting credit program for farmers and ranchers, \$30,300,000.

10—Rural electrification special studies, \$138,000.

Farmers and ranchers of Missouri basin states, Young told the governors, would match every federal dollar with three or four of their own for an overall expenditure during the next thirty years of around 10 billion dollars.

Under the plan, announced Thursday in Washington, the government itself would provide more than 3 billion dollars of the total.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

# Brannan Asks \$10 Billion Plan To Protect Missouri Basin Lands

WASHINGTON, May 26.—(UP)—Agriculture Secretary Brannan today unfolded a 10 billion dollar plan to safeguard the fertile farmlands of the great Missouri basin against erosion, flood and "another great drought."

It calls for the federal government to spend 100 million dollars a year for the next 30 years to complete the job of conserving the area's farms, ranges, forests and streams. Local farmers and ranchers would match each federal dollar with three or four of their own.

## One-Third of Proposed Plan

Federal spending in the area now is running only about one-third of that contemplated under Brannan's program.

He said at that rate it would take a century to finish the project and that it might never be completed because of constant deterioration. He said the delay might be critical because history shows great droughts have occurred in the region every 30 or 40 years.

Brannan used 40,000 words and some two dozen maps and charts to explain his plan. He made the proposal public after sending it to the Budget Bureau to be forwarded to congress.

The Missouri's muddy waters flow from 10 states, draining one-sixth of the nation's land and one-fourth of its farmlands. The basin stretches across the Dakotas and Nebraska west into Montana and Colorado and south into Missouri and Kansas. It touches Southeast Minnesota.

## Just a 'Supplement'

Brannan said his plan would only "supplement"—not replace—the five-billion-dollar Pick-Sloan plan for a series of dams, reservoirs and irrigation projects to harness the waters of the big river

system. More than half a billion dollars already has been spent on that program.

The plan would operate at "grass roots" level—on the streams, forests, ranges and croplands. About \$2,200,000,000 of the funds would be paid directly to landowners as part payment for conservation projects and soil and forest-conserving practices.

It calls for construction and improvement of 500,000 farm ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps and 78,000 wells. It also would entail 1,900,000 miles of water-retaining terraces, 166,000 of forest firewalls, 65,000 miles of fencing 2000 miles of cattle trails, 2,500,000 acres of shelter belts and 14,000 to 16,000 small upstream dams.

MINNEAPOLIS STAR

# \$3,000,000,000 Missouri Basin Plan Offered

## Agriculture Chief for Conservation and Farm Aid

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan proposed today a \$3,092,328,000 program for speeding up development and conservation of agricultural resources in the Missouri river basin.

He said the program would do in 30 years what otherwise would take 100 years and very much more money at the present rate of progress.

The program would supplement a \$5,000,000,000 flood control plan for the Missouri river and its

main tributaries already authorized by congress and known as the "Pick-Sloan Plan."

In a report, Brannan said his program is "imperative if we are to preserve the resources with which the basin is richly endowed and assure their full employment for the continuing good of the people."

Bulk of the proposed federal expenditures—or about \$2,200,000,000—would be used to make payments to farmers, ranchers and land owners for carrying out government-recommended measures for protecting the land from erosion. A major objective would be a return of much crop land to pastures for livestock grazing.

The area which would be covered by the program includes all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large parts of North Da-

kota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of Missouri and Kansas, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota.

Brannan said he expects to submit the program to congress later, after it has been checked and approved by the budget bureau.

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## MINNEAPOLIS STAR

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The report estimated farmers and landowners would spend three to four times as much as the federal government—\$3 to \$4 for each federal dollar—in carrying out the proposed program.

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**THE FIRST TYPE** is along the lines now being carried on by the department's soil conservation service. It includes measures designed to stabilize small watercourses through use of dams, floodways, diversion ditches, and sodding of banks of small streams.

This type of work would be carried out through co-operation with local government units, particularly soil conservation districts, with the federal government bearing a major part of the cost.

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The department would offer them payments designed to cover a part of the cost. But only one payment would be made for each conservation practice or measure carried out, and that would be on the initial installation or operation.

No payment would be made each succeeding year for carrying out the particular measure.

#### BRANNAN CITES LAG IN AREA POPULATION

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan said today that failure to keep pace with the population growth of the United States as a whole is a major concern of people of the Missouri river basin.

"Although the national population has increased more than 30 per cent since 1920, the population of the basin has increased very little," he said in his Missouri Valley report.

Non-farm population, he said, has shown an increase of 26 per cent in the basin since 1920 but this falls behind the 55 per cent increase in non-farm population in other parts of the nation and does not make up for the loss in farm population, which was about 750,000 from 1933 to 1945.

"These trends," the report added, "have occurred in spite of the large natural increase in the area. Migration to other areas has about equalled the natural increase in the basin's population."

## BRANNAN LISTS PROPOSED SPENDING FOR PROJECTS

The proposed federal spending for the Missouri river basin, recommended today by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, would be as follows:

**CONSERVATION** and improved measures for grassland and cropland, \$1,189,630,000.

**FOREST** and forest range land conservation, \$493,609,000.

**PROJECT** to stabilize small watercourses, \$1,005,400,000.

**AID** of irrigation, \$201,310,000.

**IMPROVING** drainage of farm land, \$31,942,000.

**SOIL** surveys and land classification, \$28,620,000.

**RESEARCH** on ways of improving farm and forestry production in the basin, \$51,305,000.

**EXTENSION** education of farmers in new methods, \$60,074,000.

**EXPANDED** farm credit facilities for affected farmers, \$30,300,000.

**SPECIAL** studies in rural electrification needs, \$138,000.

Brannan proposed that \$100,000,000 a year be spent on these projects. Roughly \$33,000,000 a year is being spent on them now.



DAVENPORT DEMOCRAT AND LEADER

# Brannan Proposes \$3,000,000,000, 30 Year Program

By VINCENT BURKE.

Washington. — (UP) — Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan proposed Thursday that the nation triple its farm-front efforts to safeguard the great Missouri basin against erosion, flood and "another great drought."

In 40,000 words and two dozen maps and charts, Brannan advanced a "comprehensive" plan for completing the job of developing the basin's agricultural resources in 30 years at a federal cost of \$3,092,328,000. He has sent the plan to the budget bureau for approval and transmittal to congress.

The government now is spending about \$33,000,000 a year on agricultural conservation programs in the area. At that rate, Brannan said, it will take 100 years to do the job, and it might not be done even then. He proposed a yearly outlay of \$100,000,000 to speed up the job.

The Missouri river drains one-fourth of the nation's farmlands. The basin extends over a 10-state area, reaching from the Dakotas westward into Montana and Colorado and southeastward into Missouri and Kansas. It includes all of Nebraska and parts of Iowa, Wyoming and Minnesota.

The plan is aimed at getting the basin's 582,000 farmers and ranchers to build hundreds of thousands of ponds, upstream dams, fences, shelterbreaks and other works, and to change farming practices on millions of acres of cropland and ranges.

## TO HOLD BACK WATER.

The idea is to hold back and profitably use the water in the basin, thereby building "a stable foundation for agriculture in a region where drought is an unusually high risk."

As a by-product, Brannan said, this would supplement flood control, giving longer life to the great dams, reservoirs and irrigation projects now going up on the basin's rivers. These projects are being built under the \$5,000,000,000 Pick-Sloan plan already approved by congress. More than \$500,000,000 already has been spent.

Under Brannan's plan, more than two-thirds of the proposed \$3,092,328,000 outlay — about \$2,200,000,000—would go directly to farmers, ranchers and landowners as "partial reimbursement" for conservation work construction and practices on their lands, streams and forests.

For every dollar they got, they would be expected to spend \$3 or \$4 of their own money. Thus, private expenditures under the plan might total close to \$7,500,000,000.

The "payment" plan is being used by the agriculture department thruout the nation to promote good conservation farming practices. Thus, it would represent a regional speed-up of this technique under a unified basin-wide plan. This technique must be used, Brannan said, because 79 per cent of the land is privately owned.

Brannan said the speed-up is necessary because, in the past 100 years, "prolonged and severe droughts" have hit the basin about every 30 or 40 years. There has been good weather there for nearly a decade, he said, and "we should be using the good years to prepare for the bad."

He said "unwise management of land and poor land and cropping practices are common thruout the basin," with the result that "the basin is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the unpredictable advent of another great drought."

Governors representing the 10 basin states are scheduled to meet Thursday at Rapid City, S. D., to discuss the plan with the government's Missouri basin inter-agency committee.

In advancing the plan, Brannan ducked the issue whether the basin's development should be centralized in a Missouri Valley Authority or decentralized under the present Pick-Sloan plan, which is jointly administered by the interior department and the army engineers. Brannan's aides said his plan was adapted to work under either set-up. The administration went on record last year as favoring a centralized authority.

## BREAKDOWN LATER.

No state-by-state breakdown of where or how the money would be spent under the Brannan plan will be available until later this summer, officials said.

But Brannan said the following "major achievements" could be expected in the basin at the end of his 30-year plan:

Land—More and larger livestock enterprises and less cropland; 20,000,000 acres would be taken out of continuous crop cultivation, which is depleting fertility and speeding erosion, and be seeded to grass and legumes; water supplies as well as grasslands would be expanded for livestock by building and improving more than 500,000 new ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps, and 78,000 wells; cover crops to protect 13,000,000 acres of barren cropland; stubble mulching instead of "plowing under" 34,000,000 acres of grain crops; strip cropping and contour farming on 63,500,000 acres; 1,900,000 miles of water-retaining terraces; construction of 166,000 miles of fireguards; 65,000 miles of fencing and 2,000 miles of cattle trails.

Forestry—Tree planting on 5,000,000 acres; reseeding of 400,000 acres of forest range; new roads to permit cutting of inaccessible timber stands in the Rocky mountains; 2,500,000 acres of shelter belts and wind-breaks to conserve moisture, check wind erosion and protect crops, livestock and farmsteads.

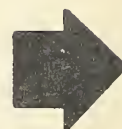
Streams—Between 14,000 and 16,000 small upstream dams and 400 to 600 desilting and debris basins to meet the challenge of hard rains and flash floods. The dams would provide temporary storage for 4,800,000 acre-feet of water distributed thruout the basin on drainage areas of less than 50 square miles. There also would be between 4,500 and 5,500 miles of minor floodways, 10,000 to 12,000 miles of small stream channel improvements and 60,000 to 70,000 miles of diversion ditches and dikes to route flood waters from eroded land and terraced fields.

Here's how the money, if granted, would be spent:

Conservation and improvement of grassland and cropland, \$1,189,630,000; forest and forest ranges, \$493,609,000; small watercourse stabilization, \$1,005,400,000; irrigation aids, \$201,310,000; agriculture land drainage, \$31,942,000; soil surveys and land classification, \$28,620,000; research and investigations, \$51,305,000.

# EDITORIAL CLIPPINGS

*For and Against*





KANSAS CITY STAR

FOR THE LAND THAT FEEDS US.

The soil conservation program announced by the secretary of agriculture fills the one big gap that had remained in the Pick-Sloan program.

It is a blueprint for thirty years in the future. While the total cost appears large it comes down to 100 million dollars a year. Considering that this is an effort to save the land of one-sixth the surface of the United States the proposed federal expenditure is modest. The much larger amount to be paid by the land owners is a dollars and cents proposition for them. Year after year farmers have been proving that soil conservation is worth much more than it costs.

Of course an over-all plan of this size will be subject to many changes. The approach is generally the same as the existing soil conservation program. The big difference is a step-up to a scale that will get the job done before this part of the Middle West blows away and washes into rivers to fill the Pick-Sloan reservoirs.

Within the last year the pattern was set by the Osage basin plan. It is a pattern for all-out effort to slow the flow of water and hold as much as possible on or near the land where it falls. With the Osage basin plan this area was given a preview of what the government can do to attack floods up the small streams, which are a multitude. It includes small ponds, small reservoirs and channel work as well as terracing, contour plowing and proper use of crops.

The objective is improving agricultural prosperity instead of gradual decline. We live in a fine agricultural area today, but not as fine or attractive as it can be in thirty years. The alternative of a do-nothing policy would mean a much poorer part of the country even in thirty years.

Regardless of what government does to speed up the program it is a fair guess the farmers wouldn't wait around on a 100-year schedule. Soil conservation has sold itself among the farmers. Given this new stimulus it should roll ahead as fast as field-men and soil conservation contractors can be recruited to the huge job. Thirty years may be too distant a goal for the public temper.

If there were no Pick-Sloan program stepped-up soil conservation would still be vital to the future of this agricultural area. But it is also a necessary companion to Pick-Sloan reservoirs. Without soil conservation the silting problem would be terrific. And slowing the progress of water from the land is part of over-all flood control. The big dams were planned on the assumption of a vigorous soil conservation plan.

In the now completed Pick-Sloan program you can see spending for a purpose—one of the biggest purposes open to the American people. It is to save and develop the very foundation of our economic future.

## Piece-Meal River Planning

*The controversy over the bureau of reclamation's proposed Glendo dam on the North Platte in Wyoming, illustrates as well as anything the basic trouble with ill-coordinated and haphazardly planned river basin development.*

\* \* \*

The present argument revolves around the bureau's plan to build a big reservoir, of 750,000 acre feet capacity, at Glendo, instead of the smaller reservoir, of 150,000 feet capacity, originally proposed.

In opposition to the bureau, and demanding that congress withhold funds from the project, are Nebraska's governor and congressmen, who fear construction of the larger reservoir upstream would jeopardize power and irrigation projects, particularly Tri-County, downstream in Nebraska.

\* \* \*

Thus, where in the Tennessee valley a single board, TVA, would have presented congress with a single engineering plan, taking an overall view of the valley and relating one proposed project to another on a sound technical basis, the decision in this tributary of the Missouri rests with the members of the senate and house appropriations committee, with only conflicting downstream and upstream claims to go by and no overall point of view to which to refer.

If the Pick-Sloan plan were a co-ordinated overall plan, it would have been made clear long ago, by the technicians and not by the politicians, just how big a dam could and should be built at Glendo to fit into the overall picture and to make best use of the limited water supply.

Or if the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency committee, on which the bureau of reclamation, the army engineers, and the states, are represented, were an effective supervisory and co-ordinating agency, this three-sided conflict among the bureau, Wyoming and Nebraska, would have been resolved.

Or, if the recommendation of the Hoover commission were carried out, there would be unified responsibility, within the department of interior, for all federal functions concerned with water resources development, and congress would not have to turn to the bureau on questions having to do with the water upstream at Glendo, and on tributaries elsewhere, and to the army on questions having to do with the same water downstream on the main stem.

### *Covering Up a Mistake*

Finally—and this fact has been obscured by the present argument—if water conservation and use had begun at the beginning, on the land of the watershed where the rain falls, instead of, as the Hoover commission says, backwards, Glendo reservoir might never have been proposed, even with a small capacity. The estimated cost of a 150,000 acre-feet reservoir at Glendo was \$4,000,000 in 1944. That expenditure was proposed, in the first place, because another, earlier expenditure had been made on the basis of inadequate planning and with inadequate consideration to problems of soil erosion in the watershed, and consequent siltation in the reservoir.

In its 1944 report embodying the Sloan plan for the Missouri basin, the bureau of reclamation explained the reason for the proposed Glendo dam as follows:

**"A recent silt survey of the Guernsey reservoir, constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation near Guernsey, Wyo., has shown that its capacity has already been impaired by silt accumulation to such an extent that ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL CAPACITY HAS BEEN LOST. It is apparent that further measures must be taken to provide additional silt-storage capacity, to re-regulate return flows on the Kendrick project when it is irrigated, and to develop more power. A reservoir is therefore proposed on the North Platte river, near the town of Glendo, Wyo., to store approximately 150,000 acre-feet of water, and to correct the adverse conditions now facing that portion of the river basin. Development of additional irrigated land with the aid of this reservoir is not proposed."**

### *A Limited Resource*

In other words, millions of public money to be spent—not for irrigation, or power, or flood control, in themselves, but simply to cover up mistakes and omissions of the past.

**You can do that, in river development, so long as upstream from each poorly planned reservoir is a suitable site for a dam to make up for the lack of planning in the previous one. But sooner or later, you run out of damsites. Damsites, like the waters themselves, in these arid plains, are a limited and precious natural resource, to be conserved, not to be recklessly wasted.**

On the Loup river, in Nebraska, one was wasted. There are possibilities for expanded irrigation development on the Loup, according to the bureau. But the Loup was developed piecemeal, with the power plant at Columbus taking first place. "Little if any more water," said the bureau in 1944, "can be used consumptively above the Columbus power plant, however, without adversely affecting it." At the same time, owing to inadequate consideration of the watershed lands as a whole, Lake Babcock is rapidly silting up, rendering the power plant itself decreasingly useful. Ultimately it will be taken out of commission entirely, and power imported from projects elsewhere in the basin.

## Development at a Standstill

A group of people, including representatives of most of the agencies involved in the vast project, were meeting at the University of Nebraska Monday to discuss Missouri basin development, to explain what it means and to report on the progress to date.

Meanwhile, in one basic respect—many, including this newspaper, insist the basic respect—Missouri basin development was not developing at all.

In a news story at the close of last week, A. E. McClymonds, regional conservator for the federal soil conservation service, pointed out that the U. S. department of agriculture flood control work is at a standstill in the Missouri basin, except in the Little Sioux watershed in western Iowa.

Which means that while work goes on apace on vast projects on our rivers, no funds as yet have been made available for the work that must be done if those projects are to stand the test of time, and are to represent a part of a planned overall approach to water and soil conservation in which rivers are considered along with their watersheds.

All that we have in this major respect—which the Hoover commission properly said was where the Pick-Sloan projects should have begun—is a report, prepared by the U.S.D.A. It outlines the watershed planning and the land management practices that must be pushed before we in the basin can truthfully say we have a well-integrated, thoro-going plan, for multiple-purpose resources conservation.

While power, and irrigation, and flood control and navigation, have got the attention and the funds, the necessary agricultural practices that have a direct and integral bearing on all of these other phases of resources development, have been acknowledged, so far, chiefly in a report which possibly not even all the other responsible agency officials have yet got around to reading. Yet in basin development, it is "must" reading, and a "must" basis for action.

This report will come up for discussion at the next meeting, this month, of the Inter-Agency committee. The recognition it receives from all the participating agencies at that time will be an important test of their claims that a truly integrated development is under way in the basin.



## THE BRANNAN WAY

There are two ways for the Government to do things, it seems.

One is the way that makes sense. The other is the Brannan way.

Mr. Brannan, the Secretary of Agriculture, recently proposed a conservation plan for the Missouri Basin. Its cost he estimated at three billion dollars plus. A large fraction of the cost would represent give-away money to farmers for doing certain things that some of Mr. Brannan's stooges at the moment might consider conservation.

When Congress asked the Department of Agriculture to think up a plan for controlling floods on secondary watersheds in the Missouri Basin, the task was turned over to the Soil Conservation Service. The SCS was asked to have its plan ready by January 1, 1949.

\* \* \*

The Soil Conservation Service went to work quickly on a basin-wide survey. It came up, on time, with a proposal that was extremely simple and logical. Those features alone apparently were enough to condemn it in Mr. Brannan's office.

It proposed that flood control in the secondary watersheds begin where raindrops hit the land. It proposed that a prerequisite to doing anything in secondary watersheds consist of the application of soil conservation measures to most of the land that contributes runoff water to the watersheds.

It proposed that such measures be applied by the individual farmers co-operating with regularly-organized soil conservation districts.

Then, it proposed, the Federal Government should step in and build dams or bank-protection structures to control excess water contributed by land that had been conserved to its fullest extent.

The plain fact is that the application of complete conservation plans is of such recent development that nobody knows just how much it can reduce the amount of runoff that develops in small watersheds. A complete conservation development on all the farms of some watersheds might make Federally-built dams wholly unnecessary. Or it might result in a conclusion that fewer and smaller dams and other structures, and less expensive ones than might have been contemplated, would do the job adequately.

\* \* \*

That is too much of a common-sense approach for Mr. Brannan. He delayed the SCS report and finally brought out a plan of his own which pretty much left the SCS out of the picture. He would have his Production and Marketing Administration dole out more bribes to farmers for building doodle dams and plowing under sweet clover, in the name of conservation. And he would give the smaller watersheds the full treatment of expensive engineering outlays.

There is a reason for Mr. Brannan's action that isn't apparent on the surface. The Soil Conservation Service has studiously kept its nose out of politics. On the other hand, cer-

tain committeemen of the Production and Marketing Administration have been up to their necks in politics. The PMA offers at least a prospect of becoming the best political organization since Tom Pendergast's corps of ward heelers reached its zenith.

Mr. Brannan may figure that enough Federal money dropped in the right places can keep the left wing crowded in office forever. But that isn't conservation of the Missouri Basin.

## BAIT FOR THE FARMER

This newspaper has been preaching soil conservation for many years. As a practical demonstration of its interest in the subject, it offers prizes of five thousand dollars annually to the Soil Conservation Districts in Nebraska and Western Iowa which do the best job.

Yet despite our deep interest in saving the soil, we think Secretary of Agriculture Brannan's three-billion-dollar program for conservation in the Missouri River basin should be viewed with extreme reserve.

In general, there are two methods of promoting soil conservation. One is the educational and co-operative method. That is the one now being followed by the Soil Conservation Service under Dr. Hugh Bennett. It encourages the formation of districts, and then advises the farmers how to save soil in ways that will be profitable to them as well as beneficial to future generations.

That, we think, is the sound way.

The other is to bribe the "co-operating farmers"—tell them that if they will adopt such-and-such practices they will be rewarded with checks from Washington. That is the method used by the old triple-A, and it is still in high favor among the long-haired planners.

We think that is exactly the wrong way to go about the job.

A benefit system inevitably hands over control of the farm lands to the red-tape farmers in Washington. It gives them the power to say what shall be planted, when and how much. That is not agreeable to the real farmers, and in the long run it is not efficient. The educational method is slower, but sounder and thoroughly American.

The Brannan plan, as revealed to the press, tries to combine the two methods. It would continue the Soil Conservation Districts, but it also would offer benefit checks for compliance and would give the Department the power to withhold price supports from farmers who refuse to take orders.

Unquestionably the plan has some good features, but at first examination they appear to be offered in the form of bait—to induce the Country to accept more bureaucratic planning and more Government authority. Congress should examine the whole plan minutely and critically.

RAPID CITY JOURNAL

## The Agricultural Program For The Missouri Basin

One might assume that people living in a nation whose government bandies about million and billion dollar figures daily might become immune to announcements of huge amounts. It isn't so. The long-awaited agricultural program for speeding up development and conservation of agricultural resources in the Missouri basin, announced in Rapid City today, startles the imagination. Its cost, according to Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, is \$3,092,000,000.

However, this amount would be spread out over a 30-year period. Brannan maintains his program will accomplish in this period—and for considerably less money—what would take 100 years to do at the present rate of progress.

The three billion appropriation would be in addition to the \$5 billion flood-control plan for the Missouri river and its main tributaries already authorized by Congress and known as the Pick-Sloan plan.

The area included in Brannan's proposal would take in most of South Dakota, all of Nebraska, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of Missouri and Kansas and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota. Farmers in these states would be paid for returning much of their croplands to pastures and for carrying out other government-recommended measures for protecting the land from erosion.

Improved land management in the Missouri river states will retard flood waters at their very source, says the Brannan report.

There is no question the proposal would greatly strengthen South Dakota's economy. It would fortify the state's chief industry—agriculture. The soil conservation practices being carried on in the state for the past several years have produced remarkable returns for the participants.

At first look, there appears to be considerable merit in Brannan's proposal. It seems to be "fairly well-thought-out." A long-range conservation program is necessary to the nation's economy.

But like most of the Truman administration's proposals, it is announced without regard to where the money will come. Of course, everyone should know the taxpayers will have to bear the cost. They are already creaking from the overburden of taxation. And the nation is in grave danger of bankruptcy because it is on the brink of spending more money than it takes in.

On the other hand, for the future welfare of the country, how can Congress turn down the program? It is the most sensible suggestion to come out of the Truman administration. The Brannan proposal is vastly different from other Truman offspring in that it will actually conserve instead of deplete! People residing in the Missouri basin will wait with considerable interest for more news of the agricultural development program for their great region.

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PULITZER PRIZE EDITOR  
APPROVES :

*"It... must be undertaken..."*



## LINCOLN JOURNAL

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

Having started back-ends-to in the development of the Missouri river basin, we are now, today, beginning to begin at the beginning.

\* \* \*

Breathtaking in its thoroughness and its scope, and of as tremendous importance to Nebraska, key state in the Missouri basin, as anything that has been proposed at least in this generation, is the United States department of agriculture Missouri basin program, made public today.

\* \* \*

What the department of agriculture proposes to do is to seek authority and funds with which to compress into one generation a comprehensive program for the full use and conservation of the vast ten-state area's land and water resources.

**A Plan for The Basin**

It is a job, the report says, which without the proposed authority and funds, would take a century to accomplish at the present rate. It is a three billion dollar job for the protection of the basic soil and water resources in one of the world's greatest food-producing areas. It is a three-billion dollar job whose completion would have a tremendous impact not only on the agricultural, but on the entire economic and social development of this state and this region.

\* \* \*

It is furthermore, a three-billion dollar job that must be undertaken, in the broad outlines today proposed if not in the specific details, if the six and a half billion dollars now going into construction of the Pick-Sloan projects is not to be money foolishly spent.

\* \* \*

The report, a 188 page document, is down-to-earth. It talks the farmer's language. That is because its preparation is the work, initially, of hundreds of soil conservation and department of agriculture technical experts in the field, in contact with the farmers at work, and aware of the farmers' needs.

\* \* \*

Essentially it is the story The Journal has been telling for months upon months, with particular reference to Nebraska. It is the story The Journal has been telling in its news columns, in the farm tabloid and in the daily paper, of the growing realization, down on the farm, of the necessity for putting first things first—for conserving water on the soil that produces food before or at least along with conserving it behind costly on-river dams; conserving it on the farm where it will

produce before conserving it behind plugs in the river, the necessity for which is not fully known until the first job is done. It is the story The Journal has been telling, on the editorial page—of the manner in which this first conservation objective had been obscured in the feuds and technically unsound compromises among the score of overlapping federal and state agencies, trampled under in the military approach of the dominant army engineers, and buried in the glamorous propaganda about the “overall Pick-Sloan plan.”

\* \* \*

It is the story that the Hoover commission said needed telling, in its scathing indictment of the Pick-Sloan approach to basin planning—an approach, the commission said, that was “exactly in reverse.”

\* \* \*

Anyone, indeed, who ever called the “Pick Sloan plan” a plan, will realize his mistake on reading the department of agriculture report and finding, in it, what the Pick-Sloan projects, for flood control (Pick—army engineers) on the one hand, and irrigation (Sloan—bureau of reclamation) on the other, must embrace before they can truthfully be said to constitute an overall plan for basin development and conservation of resources.

The Pick-Sloan compromise of 1944 between the army engineers and the bureau of reclamation, accepting many of the mistakes of both bureaus, did represent a step forward at least in the sense that it recognized that the down-river need for flood control and the up-river need for irrigation were two sides of the same problem, two aspects of controlling the one river.

\* \* \*

But where the Pick-Sloan “plan” has fallen short and, indeed, this is why it is in reverse, and hardly a plan in the sense of a studied, overall approach—is in its failure to have recognized that water on the land and water in the river are also two phases of one and the same problem, two aspects of developing the one river basin.

\* \* \*

Now the Department of Agriculture steps in and says that you can't plan basin development or conservation wisely and economically, in short, that you don't truly “conserve,” without considering, at one and the same time, the river and the watershed around it. And in this report it outlines, in detail, how that can be done.

\* \* \*

The report is one which must command the attention of every far-seeing Nebraskan.  
—RAYMOND A. McCONNELL, JR.



## LINCOLN JOURNAL

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

Today's column is in the nature of a  
*Primer on Missouri Basin Development.*

\* \* \*

The army engineers, a branch of the department of war, initially charged with the civil function of overseeing harbors and navigable rivers, gradually over the years worked upstream until their jurisdiction also

**A Basin  
Primer**

included flood control. Essentially, since navigation and floods are major problems only on the lower end of a river, theirs is a downstream point of view. Their primary concern has been in the building of levees and of large on-river dams, for the protection of bottomland and other property downstream, against floods, and for the assurance of adequate channels and of an adequate water flow for navigation.

\* \* \*

The bureau of reclamation is a branch of the U. S. department of interior whose authority rests primarily on the development of irrigation for the reclamation of arid lands. Irrigation is a major problem only in the arid west, and principally at the upper end of the rivers. Essentially, therefore, the bureau of reclamation's is an upstream point of view.

\* \* \*

The Missouri basin is a 332,556,000 acre chunk of the United States, with 8 million people and embracing ten states in their entirety or in part. (In entirety: Nebraska. In part: South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, Wyoming.) It embraces the watershed of the Missouri river and its tributaries, and is the largest river basin in which there is a considerable overlapping in the functions of the army engineers and the bureau of reclamation.

\* \* \*

The Pick-Sloan plan is a blueprint named for General Pick of the army engineers and W. G. Sloan of the bureau of reclamation, calling for the construction over a six-year period, now two years under way, of some six and a half billion dollars worth of flood control, navigation, and irrigation projects planned by the army and the bureau. Initially, the army, working from downstream up, and the bureau, working from upstream down, each formulated a blueprint of its own projects for the whole basin. Each criticized the other severely, and the two were in competition for public funds and for the water resources of the basin. Under pressure for a Missouri Valley Authority, to supplant them, the army and the bureau got together in a compromise to head off an MVA. The compromise is

the Pick-Sloan plan, incorporating most of the army's original projects and most of the bureau's. Its authority in law is the federal flood control act of 1944: That and subsequent congresses have appropriated funds for specific projects.

\* \* \*

The Missouri Basin Inter-Agency committee consists of five governors selected by the Missouri River States committee, and of representatives of the army engineers, the bureau of reclamation, the department of agriculture, the federal power commission and the department of commerce. In itself it lacks power in law and can operate only as a consultative committee. It attempts, thru periodic meetings, to reconcile conflicts among the various bureaus and states concerned in construction of the Pick-Sloan plan projects, as well as to review proposed projects and to make recommendations to congress.

\* \* \*

The Missouri River states committee is a voluntary association of the governors of the ten Missouri basin states, organized for the purpose of reviewing the mutual problems of the basin states.

\* \* \*

The Missouri Valley Authority is a proposal, embodied in a bill before congress this session and last and advocated, in principle, by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, for the establishment of an independent regional federal authority, responsible only to congress, and charged with conservation and development of the basin's resources. It is a proposal to extend the principle and pattern of the Tennessee Valley Authority to the Missouri basin.

\* \* \*

The Missouri Valley Development association is a publicity and pressure group formed originally by interests opposed to a Missouri Valley authority. It has operated principally to exert pressure on congress and on public opinion against a Missouri Valley Authority and, as an alternative, in behalf of the Pick-Sloan plan, Inter-agency committee, approach.

\* \* \*

The Missouri basin agricultural program, made public yesterday, is a 30-year program developed and recommended by the department of agriculture to bring into the Pick-Sloan picture the soil and water conservation and land use practices the U.S.D.A. considers essential on the farms, if the water and soil resources of the basin are to be developed and conserved to the full, and if flood control is to be effectively achieved.

—RAYMOND A. McCONNELL, JR.

## LINCOLN JOURNAL

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

*The silliest of the initial reactions to the U.S. department of agriculture's proposed Missouri basin soil and water conservation program was silly on the face of it, and all the sillier because it came from Nebraska's Governor Peterson.*

Governor Peterson is one of the principal members of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency committee (a body which seeks by consultation but without enforcement authority to iron out conflicts in the Pick-Sloan flood control, irrigation and navigation developments), to have taken heed of growing criticism of the Pick-Sloan "plan", and to have insisted that a greater emphasis in basin planning be given the agricultural and soil conservation phase.

At least he has done that to some extent in past meetings of the Inter-Agency committee. In public speeches he has remained, for the most part, a hook-line-and-sinker evangelist of the Pick-Sloan plan as the one and only true gospel.

**Out of Gear**

In Inter-Agency committee meetings, it was at Governor Peterson's initiative, to some extent, that the effort was launched, resulting in this week's proposed U.S.D.A. program, to bring the Pick-Sloan "plan" into balance by providing for planning of the watersheds around the rivers. Instead of just looking at the rivers themselves.

This is only common sense, because you can't control floods, economically or with any real knowledge of what you are doing, unless you know how much water will run off the soil. And until full attention has been given to keeping water on the soil, thru intensive conservation practices, you don't really know how much of a flood problem you have in any given watershed, or how justifiable are huge and costly on-river dams.

It was to meet this glaring deficiency in the Pick-Sloan approach that the U.S.D.A. Missouri basin program was devised. There are other weaknesses, amounting to sheer waste, in the manner Missouri basin development has been approached, thru the Pick-Sloan plan. But the worst was in its failure to embrace the fact that the whole problem of water conservation and flood control begins when the rain falls on the soil. That is one reason why the Hoover commission said the Pick-Sloan plan was almost completely "in reverse."

What, then, was the initial reaction of Governor Peterson's, at whose prodding agriculture and soil conservation were encouraged to study ways of remedying this vast weakness in the Pick-Sloan approach?

At Rapid City, where the Inter-Agency committee was holding one of its periodic meetings, this time to hear Gladwyn Young of Lincoln report on the U.S.D.A.'s program growing out of that study, Governor Peterson was quoted as saying,

**"I don't see where it is geared into the Missouri basin program."**

*It is not geared into the program. That is precisely the biggest trouble with the present program, as Governor Peterson himself seemed to realize, months ago.*

*Perhaps, as often is the case, things aren't really what they seem.*

—RAYMOND A. McCONNELL, JR.

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

*Clearing the desk of some accumulated memos to myself—*

*L-2, d. 1*

The United States department of agriculture Missouri river basin agricultural program, whew, has too long a handle. So let's start a campaign to tag it the "Young plan," after Gladwyn Young of Lincoln, Secretary Brannan's field representative. Mr. Young had much to do with its preparation, and presented it to the Missouri basin inter-agency committee at the same time as Secretary Brannan was giving it out in Washington. There's already a "Brannan plan," the secretary's farm price support—consumer subsidy program, so we have to have another label for the regional conservation plan, to avoid confusion . . .



## LINCOLN JOURNAL

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

*Nothing is farther from the truth than the old saying that what you don't know won't hurt you.*

\* \* \*

This is strikingly illustrated in the voluminous U.S. department of agriculture report on the proposed program for Missouri basin land and water conservation. A large share of the report deals with the need for more basic information.

Point by point, the report makes it clear that in this Missouri basin of ours (more Nebraska's than any other single state's—Nebraska is the only state entirely within the basin), where billions already are being spent on flood control and power and irrigation projects, what we don't know—about land, water, soils, weather and crops—will not only cost us and all the rest of the taxpayers, in money wasted, but hurt us and our successor generations, in loss of irreplaceable natural resources.

\* \* \*

We don't know enough, as yet, about the very soil that we live on—its characteristics, productivity, composition, and so on—to conserve it, and the water that falls on it, to the full. We don't know as much as we

need to know about the types of crop covers best suited to the different soils to reduce the hazards of runoff and erosion.

**What We Don't Know**

We need to know more about seed production in order to overcome a shortage of seeds of the varieties best adapted to a complete conservation program. As more and more acreage goes into grassland, we need to know more about grasses, and about grazing and livestock feeding practices.

\* \* \*

If land and water, in our basin, are to be conserved to the full, within an essentially non-socialistic framework, we need to know to what extent landowners and land operators can afford to adopt conservation measures, and how much public assistance is necessary. This calls for more systematic knowledge of the costs and benefits involved in conservation farming.

The more money is invested in basin development, the more we need to investigate landlord-tenant financial relationships lest for lack of sound financial arrangements, on individual farms, the improvements be largely offset.

\* \* \*

In the vast Missouri basin we need to know more about our forests. Some 25,000,000 acres of forest land are not even properly mapped. Forests are a regulator of our water supply; we need to know more about the effect, on the surface and groundwater supply, of different timber use practices. We need to know more about what trees are best suited for shelterbelts, about methods of controlling fires, about more economical use of wood.

\* \* \*

The way we use our land affects the way water runs off it, and an understanding of the nature of water runoff is essential not only to the conservation of land and water, but to the control of floods. "Reliable information on the runoff characteristics of small agricultural watersheds in the Missouri basin, ranging from 100 acres up to 15,000 acres, is practically non-existent," according to the U.S.D.A. report. Yet, without that information, how can dams be built intelligently?

\* \* \*

We need to know more about sediment from eroding soils, and its influence on the useful life of reservoirs. According to the army engineers and bureau of reclamation, the average annual loss in reservoir storage space from siltation is more than 250,000 acre feet, or, at the present cost of reservoir storage, an annual loss of some 6 million dollars. Silting reduces the capacity of canals in irrigation and power projects. We need to know more about the erosion of canal banks, and what types of canals will last longest at least cost.

\* \* \*

"More knowledge of the basic mechanics of the movement of sediment by water is needed," says the U.S.D.A. report. "Attempts to solve the problem during the last half-century have been based largely upon inadequate trial and error methods. Progress in controlling sediment-laden flows and in the general field of erosion control can take place only with a clear understanding of the laws of sediment transportation."

\* \* \*

Without knowing more than we know about seepage, and about the salts and alkali substances in the soils that make irrigation impractical, we can't develop irrigation economically or to the full. Our knowledge and records of snowfall and snow melting in the mountains is inadequate for the most intelligent use of water in the streams. For many types of soils and crops, we must know more about the amount of water required for irrigation.

\* \* \*

It is staggering what we don't know, about water and soils and crops in the Missouri basin, and their relationships—and the gaps in our basic knowledge, recited here, cover only a fraction of the area of ignorance surveyed in the department of agriculture report.

An important, indeed perhaps the most important, phase of the U.S.D.A. proposal deals with a vastly intensified program of field investigation and laboratory research for the purpose of filling in these large gaps in our knowledge.

\* \* \*

Without doing that, we can't build dams wisely, irrigate properly, produce power economically, legislate intelligently, or truly conserve our water and our soil.

\* \* \*

Meanwhile, construction goes ahead on multi-billion dollar projects planned without this knowledge, and if we waste time in filling it in, we incur an irrecoverable loss of money, natural resources and productive capacity.

—RAYMOND A. MCCONNELL, JR.

## LINCOLN JOURNAL

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

That was a strange outburst by Gov. Val Peterson the other day at the initial meeting of the Nebraska committee to back up the Hoover commission's proposed reorganization of federal government.

It is the type of thing that has blocked efficient reorganization of government in the past, and stands in the way of the Hoover commission report now: Too many people are for it in principle, and against it where it affects their pet project.

The governor's pet is the methodless Pick-Sloan method of river basin development. Since Pick and Sloan themselves publicly dehyphenated it in a row before congress last week, it sounded odd for the governor

**A Strange Outburst**

to complain that a critic hadn't talked with Pick or Sloan. Still stranger was the governor's disregard for the manner in which the Hoover commission report was prepared. As chairman of the twelve-man, bi-partisan committee created by congress, Mr. Hoover organized some 300 of the nation's ablest experts in various fields into 24 "task forces" for investigation and analysis. These task forces in turn had their professional research and advisory staffs. Each task force reported to the 12-man commission; then the commission itself prepared a final report, which it submitted to congress in eighteen instalments. If you think the final commission merely rubber-stamped the work of the task forces, or the task forces that of their consultants, you should read a report or two.

The instalment to which the army engineers (General Pick) have objected strenuously, is the final report on the department of interior.

This makes 15 recommendations, one of which specifically aims at the army corps of engineers by proposing transfer of the corps' civil functions to the department of justice, and three of which are aimed at eliminating waste, inefficiency, duplication and conflict of the sort revealed in the Pick-Sloan development in which the army has been the dominant agency. These three recommendations are: (a) establishment of a board of impartial analysis, to review all public works projects from the standpoint of their technical soundness and their relation to the national economy; (b) correlation of reclamation with agriculture by the provision that no irrigation projects be undertaken without a report to the board of impartial analysis by the department of agriculture, and (c) consolidation within the department of interior of all federal agencies dealing with water resources.

"One of the major reasons" for this, the final report says, "is the elimination of disastrously wasteful conflict. . . . With the reclamation service in control of one function of some reservoirs and the army corps of engineers in charge of others, there can be only continued friction. . . . There are great deficiencies in the fundamental data which have resulted and are resulting, in great losses to the country.

That is the final 12-man commission speaking. That report on the department of interior was based, in turn, on reports of task forces in three inter-related fields: Public Works, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. The task force on Natural Resources was an eminent group of nine under former Gov. Leslie Miller, of Wyoming, as chairman. This task force prepared a 62-page report with a 182-page appendix. Two and a half pages of fine print are required to acknowledge the help of scores of individuals, organizations and government agencies, including the budget bureau, in preparing the report, in addition to the task force's research staff of ten, plus seven consultants, plus a special unit of the legislative reference service of the library of congress. Of the remaining 180 pages in the appendix, forty are devoted to a "Case Study of the Missouri Basin," (Appendix 6), under the name of a consultant, Dr. Edward Ackerman, assisted by Richard Watson.

That is the necessary background for Governor Peterson's unfactual outburst of Saturday, when he is reported to have blasted the Hoover commission task force report, and, by suggestion, the final Hoover report itself, as "scandalous, ridiculous and badly-conceived . . . by a young fellow (Ackerman) of the University of Chicago, who never came out here, never interviewed General Pick or Mr. Sloan and wrote the whole report in 30 days from a cubby-hole in Washington! . . . If the rest of the commission report has this same kind of research, I can't say much for it."

But last week—as Sloan was saying the Pick-Sloan plan isn't what Pick says it is and Pick was saying that if it's what Sloan says it is then the entire basin development is wrecked—the "disastrously wasteful conflict" to which the Hoover commission of 12 had pointed, could hardly be called the brainstorm of a professor, however young who contributed one part of an eighteen-part appendix in a 244 page report of one of three sub-committees.

—RAYMOND A. McCONNELL, JR.



## LINCOLN JOURNAL

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

*There are fewer farms in Nebraska now than there were in 1890.*

The same is true in Kansas. In Iowa and Missouri there are fewer than in 1900, in North and South Dakota fewer than in 1910, and in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, fewer than in 1920.

These nine, with Minnesota, are the Missouri basin states. As we talk about Missouri basin development as it is taking place in the vast projects of the Pick-Sloan plan and as it is proposed in the long-range program of the U.S. department of agriculture, we will understand these better if we keep in mind some basic facts about our region and its changed place in the national social and economic structure.

Nebraska and those portions of the other nine states that lie within the Missouri basin have an area of approximately 240 million acres, or 18 percent of the land area of the United States. They embrace about one-fourth of the nation's farm land, and the same proportion of the nation's harvested cropland. This land is farmed by one-tenth of the nation's farmers.

In the early days of settlement, most of the people in the Missouri basin lived on farms or in small towns. In 1920 about 45 percent lived on farms. That proportion dwindled to 37 percent in 1940 and 34 percent at the present.

Since 1920, there has been a 30 percent increase in the national population, an increase with which population in the Missouri basin has not kept pace. Over that same period, there has been a 26 percent increase in the basin's non-farm population, as against a 55 percent national increase, and, since 1933, a 25 percent decrease in the basin's farm population, a relatively greater loss than in the nation as a whole.

The natural increase in the region has been offset, almost equally, by migration to other areas. In the twelve years —1935-1947—Nebraska's loss of population by emigration was 228,000 or 18 percent of the state's 1947 population. This took place thru a net emigration of 21,000 annually from 1935 to 1940; 30,000 annually from April 1, 1940, to June 30, 1941; 14,000 annually from July 1, 1941 to June 30, 1945; and 11,000 annually from July 1, 1945 to June 30, 1947. Much the same has been true in other parts of the Missouri basin, and much of the loss has been from the farm population.

Behind these statistics, of course, are two stories: The story of weather, and the story of farm economics.

Irregularity and unreliability of rainfall, extreme variations in temperature, and high winds, are the basic characteristics of Missouri basin weather, and Nebraskans know these in terms of recurrent drouths, dust storms and crop failures. What Nebraskans may not realize, altho it is a circumstance equally basic to understanding both the loss of population and the problem of basin development, is that in the Missouri basin region, the potential evaporation of moisture from the soil and transpiration by plants are greater than the actual precipitation. This is a fact which underscores the importance of moisture conservation practices to decrease runoff and increase absorption of moisture by the soil.

On the economic side, the basic story is that of the decrease in the number of farms and of farmers, alongside the increase in the size of farms, as a result, not only of drouth and depression, but of mechanized farming introduced since much of the land was homesteaded in 160-acre units. One man can handle more land than in 1890.

Add up these facts—of declining population, unreliable weather and drastically changed agriculture, and you have the basic challenge to the nation and the region which has called forth the various basin development plans now unfolding in varying stages.

Before we can really understand these plans to the full, we must reach a better understanding of our region itself and of the facts that give rise to its peculiar problems.

—RAYMOND A. McCONNELL, JR.

## LINCOLN JOURNAL

**MORE OR LESS PERSONAL**

— A CHAT with the EDITOR —

*The other day, up in the Niobrara basin in northwestern Nebraska, the Mirage Flats irrigation project, long in planning, long in development, interrupted in its early history by prairie fire and other heart-breaking reverses, and in its modern phase by World war II, was dedicated at last.*

\* \* \*

At the dedication they called it, truthfully, a "pioneer's dream come true." Started in the 1890's, it was dropped for years, then revived as a joint effort of the bureau of reclamation and the soil conservation service, beginning in 1941.

\* \* \*

It is a "dream come true" in more ways than one, and of multiple significance to Nebraska.

Here is a project that puts 12,000 acres of Nebraska land under irrigation. That, in itself, is important.

**'Pioneer's Dream'**

Here is a project that converts 23 dryland farms and ranches into 111 family-sized, irrigated farm units. That, certainly, means a great deal to the economy of the state.

Here is new opportunity for veterans with growing families to become self-sustaining land owners, and nothing could be more in keeping with the dedicatory theme than this flowering of opportunity for new pioneers.

\* \* \*

But there is one thing greater than all these to be gained from the Mirage Flats development, and gained not only for Nebraska but for the entire Missouri basin.

This lies in the fact that there, in northwestern Nebraska, is an illustration, in operation, of what can be accomplished when governmental agencies co-operate in resources development, when they begin at the beginning, and follow thru on a basically sound, carefully thought thru plan.

\* \* \*

You can underscore this paragraph in the dedicatory remarks of A. E. McClymonds, regional conservator for the soil conservation service.

"This dedication," he said, "marks the completion of the first project in which the soil conservation service completed scientific development of the land for irrigation before it was settled."

\* \* \*

Because that is so, it was possible for a bureau of reclamation spokesman, the same day, accurately to call Mirage Flats a "clean cut" job from an engineering and technical standpoint."

Here, then, is an illustration that applies, by contrast, to the development under way in the Missouri basin as a whole, in all its vast ramifications. Nebraska can point to Mirage Flats as an example of what can be done when there is adequate research and planning on which to base the engineering phases of resources conservation.

A good deal of the debate over basinwide development stems from the fact that, in the basin as a whole, work has not started at the beginning, as it has at Mirage Flats — on the land to be irrigated and on the land from which flood waters run off, rather than on the rivers alone.

\* \* \*

Commenting on the Mirage Flats dedication and basin development in general, one Nebraska newspaper remarked:

"How silly we are to give ourselves over to dissension in this vast Missouri basin! What folly is there in the battle between an MVA or a Pick-Sloan plan, or a Brannan plan! If we do the job right the results will speak for themselves."

\* \* \*

*That, of course, is a big "if." We won't do the job right, and the results will speak only for our short-sightedness, unless in the basin as a whole planning and development proceeds in terms of the watersheds as entities, and of the land as well as of the rivers that comprise them.*

—RAYMOND A. McCONNELL, JR.



# FARM EDITOR FOR IT :

*"The answer to questions  
... by farmers ..."*



# Land Owners Enthusiastic Over Ag Development Project

BY STANLEY A. MATZKE.

Farm Editor  
The Journal Newspapers.

Farmer and land owner reaction in Nebraska to Secretary of Agriculture Brannan's 30 year, \$3 billion agricultural development program for the Missouri basin was favorable and enthusiastic as the details of the plan became public.

Nebraska, in the forefront of the ten basin states, in applying conservation practices to its farms and ranches, is the only one of the ten states to have its entire area in the basin.

Farmer members of conservation district boards contacted were unanimous in their acclaim of the "speedup" envisioned by the plan.

\* \* \*

**OTHERS LAUDED** the proposed "bringing into balance" the engineering and construction

features of the Pick-Sloan reclamation and army engineers program and the "down on the farm" aspects of practical land and water use and flood control.

Conservation officials said that adoption of the program by congress would immediately double and shortly treble the rate of progress in Nebraska. In the ten years since the formation of conservation districts in the state slightly over 20,000 of the state's approximately 100,000 farms are now in the conservation program.

\* \* \*

**EMERY G. JONES**, state conservationist, estimated that about 10 percent of the physical aspects of the program contemplated by the 30-year program had been accomplished in the 15 years since the first conservation demonstration projects were established in the state. Jones emphasized that the Nebraska conservation law is ideally adapted to putting the Brannan program into effect immediately upon its adoption by congress.

"In addition to the advantage of a workable conservation law," Jones said, "we have a tremendous force in farmer and rancher enthusiasm and acceptance for conservation measures built up over the past 15 years, which would assure the completion of the program in at least the 30 years contemplated, if the adequate finances and technical assistance provided by the program were made available."

\* \* \*

**EVERETT Barr**, Liberty, Gage county farmer and president of the Nebraska Soil Conservation District Supervisors association, said the program advocated by Brannan was one which "grew out of the experience of Nebraska farmers and ranchers."

"This is not the usual theoretical type of Washington planning we so often see, but a practical program based upon the work and experience of Missouri valley farmers supplemented by the research of extension and conservation experts and technicians," he said.

\* \* \*

**UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska** agricultural authorities also lauded the report for its "down to earth" approach.

"Our experience of the past ten years in Nebraska is an assurance of the soundness of the program advocated," said one official, "Our farmers know what they are talking about when they speak of contour farming, terraces, stubble mulch tillage, grassed waterways, farm ponds, pasture grooving and chiseling and the other conservation practices which on many Nebraska farms have been paying dividends for several years."

## Land, Water Plan Is That Of Nebraska Program Took Root in Field

BY STANLEY A. MATZKE.

Farm Editor.  
The Journal Newspapers.

Behind the scenes of the department of agriculture's land use and water development program for the Missouri Basin:

Altho called the "Brannan Program" and released from the office of the secretary of agriculture in Washington, D. C., the program is essentially a mid-western, and particularly a Nebraska, proposal.

Prime mover in calling for the survey, research and suggested program which make up the report was Nebraska's Gov. Val Peterson, chairman of the Missouri river states committee and a member of the intragencý committee to which the report was made Thursday in Rapid City, S. D.

Gov. Peterson, on first contact with the report, refused to comment on its merits. "After we study it maybe we'll be for it and get on our fighting clothes to fight for it. I'm not prepared to do that at this time," he said, adding, however, "I don't see where it is geared into the Missouri basin program."

**THE NECESSITY** for an over-all agricultural program to coordinate and supplement bureau of reclamation irrigation activities and army engineers flood control construction of the Pick-Sloan plan was early recognized and urged by Gladwin Young, Lincoln, representative of the secretary of agriculture on the interagency committee.

The survey, research and preparation of the report was principally carried on under the direction of A. E. McClymonds of Lincoln, regional conservator of the soil conservation service for region V consisting of Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

The University of Nebraska college of agriculture and extension service furnished much of the data, information and research which furnished the basis for the recommendations.

**THE BASIN-WIDE** flood control survey which forms a part of the report of major importance was made by Kirk Sandals of Lincoln, regional chief of the soil conservation service's water conservation division.

The down-to-earth aspects of the program are in large measure the result of the closeness of these men to the local scene where on Nebraska farms and ranches these conservation procedures and their results have been tried and studied for the past ten years.

To a great extent the proposed program is the answer to question often asked by Nebraska farmers who, thru experience, found that a soil conservation plan does not work unless you start at the top of the water shed.

**JUST THIS WEEK** a Nemaha county farmer asked, "Why does the government build these costly dams with no drainage area preparation when we have found in our farms that dams, terracing and other conservation structures simply do not work unless we map out a complete watershed plan and start working from the top?"

Of no particular importance, but of interest, is the fact that the survey and report were made without a specific authorization with respect to the Missouri river basin development and without a special appropriation therefore. The general authority of the secretary of agriculture to make investigations for the general welfare of agriculture was invoked to authorize the work which took almost a year and involved, the assistance of many hundred agricultural experts and authorities.



## LINCOLN JOURNAL

# Down On The Farm

By Stan Matzke

Farm Editor.



There still are people who think you can discuss flood control without talking about rain fall, soil, cultivation methods and ground cover.

But they're not farmers!

It was pure coincidence that your farm editor chanced to visit Nemaha county the same week that the U. S. department of agriculture released its agricultural plan and flood control program for the Missouri river basin development.

But nowhere could have been found more clean-cut examples of the vital recommendations made by the report, in their practical application to the land, than on the farms of Nemaha county.

Nowhere is the necessity for a land use and water conservation program being given priority over such primarily flood control construction as dams, levees, dikes and channel straightening more clearly demonstrated.

\* \* \*

**I WISH EVERYONE** having anything to do with the Pick-Sloan program, including governors, army officials, senators and congressmen could spend a day viewing, and hearing Soil Conservation Technician Claude Patrick explain the principles methods and results of applying correct conservation practices to the land.

The following quotes from the report would take on real meaning in relationship to land and water use, flood control and agricultural development when viewed in the light of the experiences of these Nemaha county farmers who in ten years have learned much about how to eliminate soil erosion, to conserve and store rainfall in the soil and to use soil and water to the best advantage.

**"Silt**ing is one of the major problems in planning and maintaining storage reservoirs in the Missouri basin—more needs to be known about the erosion of different soils, its production of sediment and its influence on useful life of reservoirs."

**"Reliable** information on the runoff characteristics of small agricultural watersheds in the basin is practically non-existent."

**"One of the cardinal principles** on which the program is founded is that conservation and use of land and water must be dealt with as an inseparable problem."

**"The major aspects of the** program are to be found in the application of conservation practices and good land use measures to farms and ranches, in the improvement of forests and forest ranges, and in stabilization of stream flow."

**"It is essential** that plans for agricultural drainage be made before levee systems are constructed to insure that the lands behind the levees will be adequately drained."

**"Bringing new areas under** irrigation involves a heavy responsibility for adequate investigations and planning prior to making public and private investments. Inadequate planning can result in waste."

**"Experience** has shown that erosion cannot be controlled on some land by good cropping practices alone. It will require concurrent use of terraces, which in turn require outlets, gully control structures and other measures. An accelerated conservation program is essential—"

**"The use of straw** and stubble residues (stubble mulch) to give erosion protection—is recommended."

**"The first essential** is a plan. The recommended program is designed as an integral part of the co-ordinated basin development and must be scheduled concurrently to achieve maximum benefits."

**"The goal reduced** to its simplest terms, is the application of good land management and conservation practices to the lands of the basin—to stabilize and increase production, reduce erosion and sediment damage, abate floods and produce many other kinds of benefits."

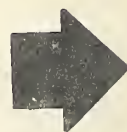
\* \* \*

**WITH HARDLY** an exception the methods and practices recommended by the report for application to the lands of the Missouri basin have been tried and found workable and satisfactory by the farmers of Nemaha county. And if the present rate of progress could be stepped up by additional technical assistance it wouldn't be long before reliable information on the runoff characteristics of small watersheds would be available.

**And it is the runoff from** small watersheds which accumulates into disastrous floods in the lower parts of big watersheds.

# READERS FAVOR PROGRAM..

*"This is no idle dream . . . ."*





## LINCOLN JOURNAL

# The USDA's Missouri Basin Plan

## Important Link

LINCOLN.—This expanded conservation program for the Missouri river basin is a most important link in the overall Missouri river basin program. By its careful design, the program will enlarge the wealth of benefits the nation rightly expects from our increasingly large investment of public money in dams, reservoirs, and other huge engineering works in the basin. An accelerated conservation program in the basin is a "must job" if proper protection and a longer life is to be realized from the large projects being constructed under the present Pick-Sloan plan. At the same time the program will aid farmers and farm families in using the expected benefits to a better advantage.

The program will be accomplished, in the main, by encouraging farmers and private owners to protect their land from erosion and depletion and to operate their farms and ranches so as to withstand the punishment adverse weather inflicts on land and people.

In order to accomplish all the conservation work that needs to be done in the basin area, farmers will be reimbursed in part for the cost of the initial installation and application of adapted practices. In carrying out and applying practical conservation plans, farmers, ranchers and land owners will have available to them the necessary technical assistance.

Partial reimbursement recognizes first that many benefits accrue directly to the public from these installations and practices. Among these benefits are conserved resources, flood control, better water supplies, enhanced recreational opportunities, and the reduced need for public assistance in the event of adverse weather. In some instances, moreover, new installations and practices require major adjustments in farm operations and the momentary loss of farm income.

For these reasons, it is my opinion, the public should share first costs in an appropriate degree. This practice of sharing the cost of carrying out adapted conservation practices is now employed throughout the U. S. department of agriculture, under the provisions of the agricultural conservation program. Under the program proposed for the Missouri basin, the carrying out of conservation practices would be accelerated to the extent necessary to meet the problem of conservation and land use in the basin and to aid in its full scale development. Under the department's present conservation program, wherein the farmer receives approximately 50 percent of the cost of carrying out practices, it has been definitely proven that without such assistance very little conservation would be accomplished.



SHOULD the Pick-Sloan plan become the Young-Pick-Sloan plan? Gladwyn Young of Lincoln, above, field representative of the secretary of agriculture and U. S. D. A. representative on the Missouri basin inter-agency committee, presented to the inter-agency committee at Rapid City last month the U. S. D. A.'s proposed 30-year agricultural program for the basin. It will be discussed further at the next meeting of the committee at Helena, Mont., July 21.

It should be remembered that in a program of such proportion as the Missouri river basin development, it will be necessary to carry out practices in certain watersheds which would be so costly that it would be impossible for the farmer to pay the entire cost of such developments. Many of these will be of such nature that they will provide no immediate source of income for the farmer, yet such developments would be of paramount importance in controlling flood waters, and in reducing soil erosion in the particular area involved.

In order to make a conservation program a success in the Missouri river basin, it will require continuous and co-ordinated working on all the land in the Missouri basin. This means, in effect, that the private land in the basin must be protected and developed by the farmers and land owners operating on their own land as their own program managers with the accelerated and active assistance of the government.

I believe the most important part of the present expanded program of conservation in the basin is that it can become an actual reality, since the government proposes to assist farmers with a portion of the financial cost of carrying out the needed conservation practices.

FRANK REED,

Chairman,  
State committee, production and  
marketing administration.

A vital point in the new plan is that it provides for great expansion of the valuable technical assistance furnished by the Soil Conservation Service. In Nebraska, Soil Conservation Service applications are stacked high in every county office. The present organization has made a noble effort to discharge its obligation to the farmer and rancher. Even so, such technical service must be multiplied many times for real accomplishment at any time within the next generation.

This is no idle dream of an uninformed office holder in some far away city. This development plan is the result of the best efforts of hundreds of capable and sincere men of the Missouri basin, farmers, ranchers, foresters, engineers, conservation technicians, geologists, agronomists, and many others.

Billions of dollars will be spent on the present development of irrigation, flood control, and power production facilities. Congress has approved these expenditures as contributing to the public welfare. Therefore, a companion program as outlined by the USDA, so essential to the development of the up-stream areas, certainly should deserve adequate appropriation.

LYNN COX,

President,  
Lincoln Farmers Club.

## Merits Study

LINCOLN.—The Missouri basin program is a comprehensive program directed toward improving and stabilizing the agriculture of this area. It represents the joint efforts of the department of agriculture, the agricultural colleges of the great plains, the great plains agricultural council and other state agencies. A minimum of 30 years would be required before the measures proposed can be applied to the 340 million acres of land in the basin.

## LINCOLN JOURNAL

A large part of the job of conservation of the land resources, as well as the cost, will fall on the shoulders of the 582,000 farmers of the basin. The functions of the governmental agencies, as set forth in the program are four-fold:

(1) To help farmers and ranchers by providing information on the best techniques of conservation.

(2) To make available specialized, sound conservation measures.

(3) To help groups of farmers organize their efforts to make water management and land management most effective over entire watersheds.

(4) To share in the costs of the program by providing land owners and operators with incentive payments, conservation equipment, materials and services.

The plan provides for accelerated research and education thru the combined efforts of the land grant colleges and the department of agriculture. The research program would be carried out in a 10-year period after initiation. This should provide the factual information needed for sound development of the many phases of the plan.

This program is much broader than the Pick-Sloan plan which is aimed largely at control and use of water resources after runoff has entered stream channels. The agricultural program would protect the investment being made in reservoirs, levees and other structures under the Pick-Sloan plan. It would also provide for better conservation and use of the 97 percent of the land resources of the Missouri basin not involved in the Pick-Sloan plan. The people in the basin must not forget that most of their agriculture lies outside of the irrigated basins and that a long-continued, healthy agriculture in this region must provide for conservation and sound use of all land.

The plan as proposed will be costly—three billion dollars by governmental agencies plus direct costs to farmers and ranchers. However, these costs should be offset by increased returns from the land and by a sounder agriculture for the entire basin.

The program is the most complete and the best integrated of any that has been proposed for this region. It merits the careful study of every citizen.

W. V. LAMBERT,  
Dean,  
University of Nebraska  
college of agriculture.



REPORTER SAYS  
IT'S O.K. :

*"Makes so much sense. . . ."*



# *Declares All Pick-Sloan Plan Work Should Be Halted*

*(EDITOR'S NOTE.— This is the first of a series of articles about Missouri river valley development by M. B. Ronald, who has attended most of the meetings of the Missouri Valley Inter-agency committee during the past year and a half. During that period he has studied the Pick-Sloan plan for the development of the valley which it is the duty of the Inter-agency Committee to administer.)*

*By M. B. RONALD  
Daily Republic Staff Writer*

Three events at the South Dakota meeting of the Missouri River Valley Inter-agency committee at Rapid City last week highlighted reasons why all work on the Pick-Sloan plan for developing the Missouri basin should be stopped immediately.

There is no reason to believe the Pick-Sloan plan should be shelved at this time in favor of an MVA. The reasons why the development program should be stopped before more money is wasted and terrible damage done, reach far beyond the fight between adherents and opponents of an MVA. There is no evidence that the results would be much better if pushed at this time under the sponsorship of an MVA than they will be under the Pick-Sloan program.

No dam construction program should be undertaken until a vast amount of study and soil conservation work has made it possible for some future agency to build dams and know what it is doing. Those who are carrying out the Pick-Sloan plan do not know what they are doing, nor would the directing personnel of an MVA, if it were to be dropped into the valley and ordered to proceed immediately with a dam-building program.

*While MVA advocates propose a preliminary study of the valley be-*

*fore embarking on a dam-building program, there is no assurance that an MVA would result in the far-reaching studies that should precede any large-scale construction of reservoirs in the valley.*

When I say those in charge of the Pick-Sloan program do not know what they are doing, I certainly do not mean to belittle the competence of the engineers and other technicians in charge of the project. They do not know what they are doing because nobody yet knows enough about the valley and its soil and water problems to work out a proper program of dam-building in the basin.

The problem of what to do with the Missouri valley cannot be viewed in proper perspective unless one holds fast to the significant fact that the only important industry throughout the valley is agriculture, and it is certain to remain the big industry in the foreseeable future.

Citizens of the valley, those in South Dakota no less than in other states, have been bedazzled by a vision of huge amounts of cheap electric power and resulting industrial developments. Actually any future industrial development in the Missouri basin will be largely in the processing of the agricultural products of the basin.

It is when we keep our eyes firmly on the ball by never forgetting for an instant that agriculture is our prime concern in South Dakota and in every other state in the Missouri basin, that it becomes apparent the proposed river development program would actually be a destruction program.

The three revealing events at the Inter-agency committee meeting last week which so clearly indicate calling off the whole program now are as follows:

(1) *The entirely reasonable protest against the high dam at Fort Randall by*



representatives of the Chamberlain Chamber of Commerce was lightly brushed off by the committee as a whole and Gov. George T. Mickelson had nothing to offer the Chamberlain delegation except his sympathy.

(2) With allocation of power from Fort Randall scheduled to be made this summer, the committee finally got down to brass tacks as to who will get the power. The official statement was that of 300,000 kilowatts to be developed in the next few years, mostly from reservoirs which will flood South Dakota land, users in this state are scheduled to get not more than 20 per cent of the output. In other words, South Dakota will provide most of the flooded land which makes power generation possible, and will receive only an insignificant fraction of the power output, if any.

(3) The United States Department of Agriculture offered a complete program of

valley development in the interests of the basin's one important industry—agriculture. This report was received with veiled hostility by the committee. In one instance the hostility was not even veiled. Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska declared he could not see how the agricultural program was geared into the Pick-Sloan program at all. Gov. Peterson, if he wants the Pick-Sloan program carried out, was certainly correct in viewing the offering of the Agriculture department with a skeptical eye. The agricultural program makes so much sense as a means of valley development and the Pick-Sloan program makes so little sense, that it is indeed true that the two are not geared together.

In future articles I will set forth details of the foregoing reasons why it is true, both from the viewpoint of the basin as a whole and the selfish viewpoint of South Dakota, that the Pick-Sloan plan should be abandoned now.

### Points To Treatment Of Chamberlain Delegation—

# No Way To Protect SD's Interests Under Existing River Development Setup

(Editor's Note.— This is the second of a series of articles about Missouri river valley development by M. B. Ronald, who has attended most of the meetings of the Missouri Valley Inter-agency committee during the past year and a half. During that period he has studied the Pick-Sloan plan for the development of the valley which it is the duty of the Inter-agency committee to administer.)

By M. B. RONALD

Daily Republic Staff Writer

Treatment of a delegation of three men from Chamberlain who appeared before the Missouri River Valley Inter-agency committee at Rapid City last week presented striking evidence that there is no way under the existing river development situation in which the interests of this state and its citizens can be safeguarded.

The lack of protection for South Dakota's welfare is so complete as to constitute an adequate reason why this state should favor calling off the Pick-Sloan program.

The protest of the Chamberlain delegation against making the Fort Randall dam so high was based on the following objections:

1. The high dam would flood American Island, a valuable recreation center which is patronized by residents of a wide area surrounding Chamberlain.
2. The water level proposed by the army engineers would necessitate the re-routing of a highway and a railroad and the building of a new railroad bridge at Chamberlain.
3. The present proposal would flood some manganese deposits.
4. Widespread dissatisfaction among valley residents was reported because an unnecessarily large acreage of valuable farm land will be flooded due to the height to which the Fort Randall dam will be built.

The committee brushed off these protests. Brigadier General Samuel C. Sturgis, division engineer, took the attitude that such protests have frequently been encountered by the army engineers in their dam building operations. In effect, he told the Chamberlain delegation that if

ment accorded to exactly similar protests by residents of the state of Missouri a few years ago. The Osage river in Missouri, a tributary of the Big Muddy, was scheduled for some of the typical Pick-Sloan plan high-dam treatment.

The complaints made by residents of the Osage valley in Missouri caused the Chamberlain complaints last week to sound extremely familiar to me. Osage valley residents charged that the dams proposed for that valley were unnecessarily high, and for that reason would flood too much valuable land, they would disrupt highway and railroad transportation unnecessarily, and would flood potentially valuable coal deposits. This complaint, almost identical with the complaints from Chamberlain, was not given the cavalier brush-off accorded to the people of Chamberlain by the inter-agency committee. There was a reason.

The state of Missouri has a high-

(Continued)



ly competent and well-staffed state conservation body. It is allowed approximately \$300,000 a year for its operations, and consequently has technical experts who are qualified to stand up to the Pick-Sloan experts. Then-Governor Phil M. Donnelly of Missouri, backed up those who protested and the result was that the Osage valley was re-surveyed and it was found that a program of controlling run-off waters at their sources throughout the Osage valley and its tributaries would indeed make the high dams proposed for the Osage basin under the Pick-Sloan plan unnecessary. A new program was substituted which had none of the drawbacks of the original high dam scheme in that valley.

At the March 1948 meeting of the Inter-agency committee in Jefferson City, Missouri, I heard General Lewis A. Pick give high praise to the state of Missouri for this constructive accomplishment.

Thus, Missouri took care of its own. South Dakota has no state agencies with personnel competent

to protect the states best interests in respect to the Chamberlain complaints, or in respect to any other complaint. The literal truth is that nobody in this state has any idea in how many other ways the Pick-Sloan program will prove destructive to the welfare of South Dakota, both present and future generations.

Another specific example is to be found in the contrast between North Dakota and South Dakota in relation to irrigation. North Dakota has a state water board which has hundreds of thousands of dollars for its operations. The North Dakota Water Board has soil experts. It made its own surveys to find out which areas in North Dakota were suitable for irrigation and which were not. Armed with this scientific information the North Dakota Water Board insisted upon and got sweeping changes in the Pick-Sloan irrigation proposals for North Dakota.

The irrigation situation in South Dakota is a sorry contrast. The

low-priced hydro-electric power. This was made abundantly clear at the Rapid City meeting of the Missouri Valley Inter-agency committee last week. The complete picture was given by J. R. Walker, Bureau of Reclamation power manager for Region 6 as follows:

Under present construction schedules, the first power would become available in 1953 in the amount of 100,000 kilowatts. In 1954 this would increase to 250,000 kilowatts and would provide 300,000 kilowatts in 1955 and later years.

Under the federal law the Bureau of Reclamation will be compelled to give preference to public agencies and co-operatives. There have already been requests from qualified preference applicants for a total of 637,000 kilowatts for the year 1954. Preference applicants in South Dakota have asked for 61,000 kilowatts. Nebraska which is organized into public power districts, has requested 367,000 kilowatts of preference power. If additional facilities are rushed to completion the firm power output might be stepped up to half a million kilowatts. Follow-

### Not The Answer To SD's Problem—

# Talk Of Changing Law Allowing Priorities On Power Said 'Unrealistic'

(Editor's Note.— This is the third of a series of articles about Missouri river valley development by M. B. Ronald, who has attended most of the meetings of the Missouri Valley Inter-agency committee during the past year and a half. During that period he has studied the Pick-Sloan plan for the development of the valley which it is the duty of the Inter-agency committee to administer.)

By M. B. RONALD

Daily Republic Staff Writer

Under the Pick-Sloan plan South Dakota will be required to give up approximately a half million acres of land which will be flooded to create all of the reservoirs projected for South Dakota. In the foreseeable future, South Dakota cannot possibly get more than a small part of the power, which will be generated if the Pick-Sloan program is completed.

So this state will pay a high price in flooded land and has missed the boat so far as there is any chance of enjoying an important amount of

Pick-Sloan irrigation proposal for South Dakota is for an elaborate scheme to take water from the Oahe reservoir, run it uphill and over a hump into the James river valley for an irrigation project. This entire scheme was worked out and included in the Pick-Sloan plan prior to any comprehensive soil surveys to find out if the proposed irrigation projects would serve land which is suitable for irrigation.

Admittedly, it is South Dakota's own fault that the state actually has no way of finding out whether it will be benefitted or severely damaged by the Pick-Sloan program. However, in view of the fact that South Dakota land will be flooded to provide most of the water for the whole project, strictly from the selfish viewpoint of this state it is very much in order to call off the whole scheme now. In future articles I will cite further evidence that the best interest of the entire Missouri valley demands immediate abandonment of the Pick-Sloan program.

ing is a table of applicants for preference power by states:

States	Requests
North Dakota	60,000
South Dakota	61,000
Minnesota	51,000
Iowa	58,000
Nebraska	367,000
Missouri	40,000
Total	637,000

So it becomes apparent that Nebraska has qualified applications for well over half the total output of power that will be possible when the entire program is completed. In view of South Dakota's low total of qualified applications as noted above, there will never be any way in which South Dakota can obtain more than the amount for which applications are already in and there is no definite assurance that the state will get that much power.

There was much grumbling at Rapid City about the federal law giving public agencies and co-operatives priority status for the use of power developed as a result of public programs. Talk of changing the law and thus permitting South Dakota to obtain more power for



distribution by private utilities is totally unrealistic. The federal policy was restated in the Flood Control act of 1944 which authorized the Pick-Sloan plan. But, it was not a new policy or a new principle. Federal power laws have provided for such priority in the sale of public power throughout most of this century. There is little reason to believe that Congress will reverse this policy in order to give South Dakota private utilities a whack at the public power which will be generated at Pick-Sloan dams, if they are completed.

Even if it should turn out to be possible, after a fight of many years, to change the federal laws, it would still be futile as a means of obtaining Missouri river power for South Dakota.

Mr. Walker made it clear at the Rapid City meeting that the allocation of this power must be made in the very near future. Walker pointed out that while the power under consideration is four years or more away it must be disposed of immediately.

On this point he said:

"Decisions as to the disposition of a large part of it must be made in the very near future in order to allow sufficient time for the detailed planning, design, and construction of the transmission facilities needed to deliver the power to prospective customers. These lines and substations will require about three years to plan and construct, assuming some improvement in the delivery of equipment and supplies."

So it can be seen that revelations made at the Rapid City Inter-agency meeting have removed from the field of speculation the question of what power benefit South Dakota will enjoy under the Pick-Sloan plan. It has been officially stated that even though South Dakota will provide the flooded land to generate nearly a half million kilowatts of power, this state cannot possibly get more than an insignificant fraction of that power.

So, if we consider the Pick-Sloan program from the viewpoint of cheap power benefits to this state, is there any reason why South Dakota should favor it?

*Says Both Can't Operate Successfully—*

## Won't Be Enough Water For Pick-Sloan Plan If 'Ag' Program Approved

(Editor's Note.—This is the fourth of a series of articles about Missouri river valley development by M. B. Ronald, who has attended most of the meetings of the Missouri Valley Inter-agency committee during the past year and a half. During that period he has studied the Pick-Sloan plan for the development of the valley which it is the duty of the Inter-agency committee to administer.)

By M. B. RONALD

Daily Republic Staff Writer  
Presentation of the United States Department of Agriculture program for developing the Missouri river basin at the May meeting of the Missouri River Valley Inter-agency committee in Rapid City brought into bold relief the shortcomings of the Pick-Sloan plan.

Despite a preliminary description of the nature of the report which was given to the committee at its March meeting in Jefferson City, Mo., the members gave it a cold

shoulder and refused to take any action on it at Rapid City, declaring that they did not know enough about it to approve it, even in principle.

This decision followed discussion which very definitely dealt with principles. Gov. Val Peterson of Nebraska declared that he could not see how the Agriculture report had anything to do with the Pick-Sloan plan. This remark by Gov. Peterson followed questions about whether the flood control aspects of the Agriculture department's program had been considered in designing the dams for the main stem of the Missouri river. Chairman Sloan of the committee nipped any discussion of that question by hastily explaining that the design of the dams did not take into consideration any results from the Agriculture program because, at the time they were designed, there was no such program.

Actually, the two programs are mutually exclusive. If the Department of Agriculture's pro-

gram is successful, there definitely will not be enough water to operate the multi-purpose Pick-Sloan scheme. The agriculture program which is designed to be carried on for 30 years at a cost of \$3 billions, includes as its foundation a valley-wide program of proper land use and water conservation which will, if it is carried out, greatly reduce the water which reaches the main stem of the Missouri river. Engineers have not agreed in the past about the volume of water which could be expected to flow into the reservoirs planned under the Pick-Sloan program.

Previous to the shotgun wedding of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineers by the Flood Control Act of 1944, engineers of each agency criticized plans of the other on the grounds that there would not be enough water. After the two programs were merged in the Pick-Sloan plan, outside engineers charged that there would



not be enough water to carry out the multi-purposes of irrigation, power generation, flood control and a nine-foot channel for navigation below Sloux City.

Now the Agricultural department proposes to prevent as much run-off as possible by a proper land use program which would include reforestation, replanting of grass and the building of nearly half a million small dams to hold the water where it falls instead of allowing it to

roar down the valleys, ripping off valuable top soil and depositing it in the main stem of the river in the form of silt.

In view of the fact that nobody knows whether there will be enough water to operate the Pick-Sloan plan even if the Department of Agriculture does not head off flood waters by controlling them at their sources, it is apparent that the Agricultural program now proposed would make it a certainty that there would not be enough water.

The fact is that there simply isn't room for both programs in the valley. They can't both operate successfully. Without the Agricultural program there might be enough water. With it there is certain not to be.

Is it any wonder that most of the members of the Inter-Agency committee treated the Agricultural recommendations as if they were a stepchild with buck teeth?

Tomorrow—Why the Agricultural department program should be placed in operation first.

### *Says Osage Project Makes Sense*

# Sound Agricultural Plan Should Be Starting Point Of Missouri Basin Work

(Editor's Note— This is the last of a series of articles about Missouri river valley development by M. B. Ronald, who has attended most of the meetings of the Missouri Valley Inter-agency committee during the past year and a half. During that period he has studied the Pick-Sloan plan for the development of the valley which it is the duty of the Inter-agency committee to administer.)

By M. B. RONALD  
Daily Republic Staff Writer

It is because agriculture is the one important industry in the entire Missouri river basin that the flood control and river development program outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture should be the starting point. The procedure in the Osage basin in Missouri is the one which should be followed throughout the Missouri valley if we hope to develop the valley in accordance with the best interests of its one important industry.

The Osage basin project makes sense because it puts first things first. The basin was surveyed to find out what results could be obtained in flood control by a proper land use program. As I have pointed out in previous articles, this survey revealed that the run-off into the main stem of the Osage could be greatly reduced and there would not be enough flood water following such a program to make necessary the high dams originally planned for the Osage valley by the Pick-Sloan engineers. In addition

to thus preventing the unnecessary flooding of land, this approach will result in savings of millions of dollars to the residents of the Osage basin as a result of sound conservation practices in the handling of the land and water.

The Agricultural department program which was outlined in Rapid City proposes to do exactly what was done in the Osage basin for the entire Missouri river basin. That is why the Pick-Sloan program should be halted until the agricultural program has been carried forward as a foundation upon which all other river developments should be based. The approach to the Osage basin's problems was not based on untried theories.

A program in the Little Sioux valley in Iowa is well advanced and it has proved beyond question what can be accomplished in the simultaneous control of floods and the conservation of soil resources by proper land use programs carried out in an entire valley. Other similar projects in other river valleys have gone forward with similar conclusive results.

The program now proposed by the Agriculture department for the Missouri valley probably could be and would be improved if there were no attempt to co-ordinate it with the Pick-Sloan plan. The concept of flood control by huge reservoirs in big rivers ignores the damage which is done to an entire basin when flood waters are permitted to rip their way unchecked throughout the basin, carrying valuable top soil which chokes the reservoirs with silt.

Broadly there are three choices facing the Missouri river basin residents:

1.—We can go ahead with the Pick - Sloan program, needlessly flooding hundreds of thousands of acres of land to create huge silt traps, while we turn our backs on the damage being done by flood waters unchecked at their source and lose additional hundreds of thousands of acres because of soil erosion.

2.—We can go forward with both the Pick-Sloan plan and the agricultural program and find that the results of the basically sound Agricultural program will leave us with vast reservoirs which will never operate as now planned and remain as a monument to the waste of public funds inherent in the Pick-Sloan plan.

3.—We can stop work on the Pick-Sloan program and have the agricultural program revised to go forward at a more rapid pace. Then in the future, there can be designed a system of dams that will fit the needs of the valley if its land and water problems are first solved in the best interests of agriculture.

Which of the three choices outlined above makes the most sense?



## Section 2.

**NEWS AND COMMENT  
FROM ELSEWHERE**



NEW YORK TIMES

# BROAD PLAN GIVEN FOR THE MISSOURI

Brannan Outlines Thirty-Year  
Program to Develop Basin's  
Land, Water Resources

TOTAL COST 8½ BILLIONS

Farmers and Private Owners,  
of This Amount, Would Pay  
\$4 to Government's \$1

By WILLIAM M. BLAIR

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

RAPID CITY, S. D., May 26—The Department of Agriculture outlined today a broad program for intensive control and development of land and water resources in the Missouri River Valley to do in thirty years what would be the work of a century under present methods. It estimated the cost of the agricultural program at \$8,503,516,575 in Federal, state and private funds.

Hailed by Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture, as "an outstanding landmark" in planning for development and conservation, it fits into the \$6,500,000,000 Pick-Sloan or Missouri Basin Inter-agency Committee plan for development of the vast basin, which covers one-sixth of the country.

The ambitious program to tie down the basin's soil and water, increase far production and promote prosperity would cost the Federal Government an estimated \$3,092,328,000 at a rate of about \$100,000,000 annually.

Farmers and land owners, who would benefit from increased production and soil saving, would pay about \$5,030,550,000. The remaining \$380,638,575 would come from the ten basin states and, to a limited extent, from interested local governments.

The 190-page document, which soon will be sent to Congress, was presented to the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee, the voluntary body attempting to coordinate activities of Federal and state agencies engaged in basin development projects, including flood control, navigation, irrigation, hydro-electric power and conservation.

## Congress Action Needed

It also was made public by Mr. Brannan in Washington, where it is being studied by the Bureau of

the Budget for reconciliation with President Truman's national policies.

It is the first agricultural program designed specifically for a major river basin. While many of its features can be carried out under existing Congressional authorizations, it contains new phases of activity which will require Congressional approval. The program is believed to be the forerunner of similar programs for other major regions.

It is divided into ten major work classifications, as follows:

Crop and grassland improvements.....	\$4,873,467,000
Small watercourses .....	1,616,000,000
Forests and forest land improvements .....	1,028,722,000
Irrigation aids .....	687,627,000
Drainage of land .....	103,557,000
Extension education, to aid farmers in understanding and carrying out land improvements.....	83,782,575
Research and investigations.....	51,305,000
Rural credit .....	30,300,000
Soil surveys and land classification .....	28,620,000
Special studies for rural electrification .....	138,000

The Federal Government would pay \$1,189,000,000 for the crop and grassland improvement program, \$493,609,000 for forest and forest lands, \$1,005,400,000 for the small watercourses, \$201,310,000 for irrigation aids, \$31,942,000 for drainage improvements and \$60,074,000 for extension education. The cost of the other four classifications would be borne in full by the Federal Government.

The farmers and landowners pay about \$4 for every \$1 spent by the Government on conservation work.

The scope of the program is so broad that it probably will touch all of the 582,000 farms, which cover 282,000,000 acres of the 529,000 square mile basin. Privately-owned land makes up 79 per cent of the basin area.

This scope and the fact that it is limited to one area are believed to be major handicaps, but the sponsors are confident of the support of the ten basin states, whose Governors received the report for study and recommendations this week.

They also believe it will meet the demands of the members of the Inter-Agency Committee, who have urged greater progress in conservation work to enable it to keep pace with the flood control, power, irrigation and other work of the Bureau of Reclamation and Army engineers.

## Features of Program

The breadth of the program is seen in some of its outstanding features, which include:

Improved land management for "a large part" of the 113,000,000 acres of crop land in the valley. Seeding of grass and legumes on 20,000,000 acres. Cover crops and green manure annually to protect 13,000,000 acres of now barren crop land. Stubble-mulching treatment of 34,000,000 acres of grain land. Strip planting and contour plowing of 63,500,000 acres. Construction of 1,900,000 miles of

terraces to retard water run-off. Construction, improvement and use of more than 500,000 new stock water ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps and 78,000 wells.

Protection of grazing lands with 166,000 miles of fire guards, 65,000 miles of new fencing and 2,000 miles of cattle trails.

Tree planting on 5,000,000 acres of forests and reseeding of 400,000 acres of forest range.

Planting of more than 2,500,000 acres of shelterbelts and windbreaks.

Construction of 14,000 to 16,000 small up-stream dams and 400 to 600 desilting and debris basins, 4,500 miles of minor floodways, 10,000 to 12,000 miles of channel improvements on small streams and 60,000 to 70,000 miles of diversion dikes and ditches.

Gladwin E. Young, the department representative on the Inter-Agency Committee, who played a leading role in formulating the program, said that it "proposes to accomplish in one generation what would take a century at the present rate."

Mr. Young and Ralph Will, an assistant to Mr. Brannan, outlined the program and its significance to the committee members, who questioned them closely.

Gov. George T. Michelson of South Dakota called attention to the more than \$5,000,000,000 that would come from private interests. These costs are tabulated in the report but are not summarized as are the Federal figures.

Mr. Will warned that "the primary burden of soil and water conservation and agricultural betterment, with their resulting benefits, including flood control, inevitably rests upon the private operators of the land."

"All the Government can do is to support and assist that effort," he added.

Mr. Brannan, in his introduction to the report, stated that "by its careful design the program will enlarge the wealth of benefits the nation rights expects from our increasingly large investment of public money in dams, reservoirs and other huge engineering works in the basin."

"The agricultural program will protect these works and give them longer life and, at the same time, aid farmers and farm families in using the expected benefits to better advantage," he said.

He described the program as "truly novel in its magnitude," but stated that the principles it recommended and eventually would apply throughout the basin were familiar, time-tested scientific practices and structures.



NEW YORK TIMES

## REPORT FROM THE NATION:

## THE MIDDLE WEST

Population Drift From Farms  
Concerns the Missouri Basin

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

OMAHA, May 28—Population trends, long a source of concern to the rural Midwest, resumed top rank as a conversation piece this week after Secretary of Agriculture Brannan announced his thirty-year Missouri River Basin plan to safeguard farm fertility and indirectly to stabilize the agrarian population.

In revealing his plan Mr. Brannan pointed out the obvious when he stated that failure to keep pace with the national population growth was of major concern to the Missouri Basin. He noted that the Midwest farm population dropped approximately 750,000 between 1933 and 1945 and that after some return to farms in parts of the basin after World War II, there now is evidence that the decline is resuming.

The drought and depression years combined with growing mechanization, the lure of the big cities and the uprooting effect of war service have been blamed for the population shift away from the farms and ranches. Regional farm experts are inclined to agree with Mr. Brannan's general thesis that something must be done to stabilize the farm population. There is some disagreement, though, over whether continued mechanization that will make farms more efficient will slow down the exodus or speed it up.

South Dakota officials have just finished a census of their own under the direction of the Business School of the University of South Dakota. The study revealed that the state's population in 1948 was 630,000, compared with a Census Bureau estimate of 623,000.

That 7,000-person difference is important to a population that is less than one-fourth that of Brooklyn but which is spread out over 77,047 square miles.

## THE MIDDLE WEST

Tree Belts Expanding Across  
the Great Plains States

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

OMAHA, Neb., June 11—People traveling through the wide-open Great Plains States would have a hard time believing it, but the subject of trees was a lively topic here this week.

From the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, tree planting is progressing at a lively rate. The project, encouraged by the individual states and the Federal Government, is of a scope sufficient to change the face of the plains area within two or three decades.

Some Midwest states have even better records than that of Nebraska, but that state's report this week was typical: 2,250,000 trees planted as farm windbreaks this spring by crews of the Federal Soil Conservation Service.

The undisputed success of the Government's shelter-belt program has given impetus to the gigantic project. The shelter-belt program was started in 1935 as a combination soil-saving and relief project.

Before it ended in 1943, with the passing of the WPA, this score had been chalked up: 220,000,000 trees planted in 30,223 windbreaks covering 18,600 miles of checkerboard pattern between Texas and the Dakotas.

Approximately 85 per cent of the trees have survived their drought-era start, and millions are now more than fifty feet tall. They temper the plains' hot winds, check wind erosion from the neighboring farm lands, preserve moisture in the pear-ky soil and eventually will provide a rich cash crop.

Some farmers report that field crops grown within the shelter of these windbreaks have doubled in volume. Reports came from ranch areas last winter of many cattle saved from the blizzard by windbreaks.

Farmers and ranchers are taking keen interest in experiments aimed at finding better strains of trees for their particular area. Typical of these is one just started on the Ed Banks Farm, about fifty miles southeast of Sioux City, Iowa. There, two Iowa agencies and three Federal services have planted 8,500 trees to test twenty varieties in a search for the types best suited to western Iowa soil.

## WALL STREET JOURNAL

# Brannan Offers 30-Year Plan for Agriculture In the Missouri Basin

## Program to Cost \$3 Billion Aimed At Conservation and Improvement of Lands

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Brannan has proposed a comprehensive 30-year program to cost \$3,092,328,000 for hastening agricultural development in the Missouri basin.

Mr. Brannan's recommendations call for improvement of grasslands and croplands, forests and forest ranges, small watercourses, irrigation and drainage programs on some 340 million acres of deteriorating lands. It is the first time an agricultural program has been recommended on such a broad basis for a major river basin.

If adopted, the plan would cost about \$100 million a year.

The Missouri River basin includes Nebraska, most of South Dakota, parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, half of Kansas and Missouri, and small sections of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota—326 million acres. Mr. Brannan's recommendations also include an additional 14 million acres of outside-the-basin area in North Dakota—a total of 340 million acres.

Before the secretary can transmit his recommendations to Congress, he first must win budget bureau approval. The scheme for Missouri River Basin development is in no way linked to plans which would set up a Missouri Valley Authority, although the program "could easily be fitted into an M.V.A., just like agriculture is in the T.V.A.," an official stated. At present the government is constructing dams in the area for flood control by authority of the Pick-Sloan Act of 1944.

Five federal agencies as an inter-agency committee since 1945 have been making parallel studies of the basin. The agencies are Commerce Department, Bureau of Reclamation, Agriculture Department, Federal Power Commission and the Engineers Corps of the Army.

Mr. Brannan said the program could take 30 years, or a century, if necessary.

"The unique qualities of the program are to be found in its coordination of land management for conservation and flood control and in its recommendations for a much swifter

pace in conservation and the adoption of constructive land management."

"Even with this acceleration, at least 30 years will be needed to complete the task of developing the basin's agricultural resources. At the present rate of progress, however, the desirable results may be delayed for as long as a century, if, in fact, we are able to realize them at all."

Mr. Brannan approached the development program along five lines. First, he urged extension of conservation programs and good desirable results may be delayed for as long as a century, if, in fact, we are able to realize them at all."

Mr. Brannan approached the development program along five lines. First, he urged extension of conservation programs and good land management to 282 million acres of farms and ranches, of which 113 million acres are in croplands. This calls for seeding of grass and legumes, sowing of stubble mulching, green manure and cover crops, strip cropping and contour farming systems. Some 1,900,000 miles of terracing to hold water is needed.

Second, private owners should speed conservation and flood control work to protect lumber and livestock. This would increase recreational benefits. Mr. Brannan asked for new plantings on five million acres of forests, plus reseeding of 400,000 acres of ranges and planting of 2,500,000 acres of shelter-belts and windbreaks.

Third, stabilization of small watercourses, Mr. Brannan said, is needed to hold water on land, or permit heavy rainfalls to move on to main stream channels without damage from overflow. He said between 14,000 and 16,000 small dams should be built, along with 400 to 600 desilting and debris basins. Other stabilization measures should include 4,500 to 5,500 miles of floodways, 10,000 to 12,000 miles of small stream channel improvements and 60,000 to 70,000 miles of diversion ditches and dikes to route flood water from eroded land and terraced fields.

Fourth, the secretary recommended an increase from five million acres to 12,500,000 acres of the area under irrigation. This would hike from 38,000 to 75,000 the number of farms irrigated, 12.5% of all farms in the basin.

Fifth, installation of drainage systems for 1,500,000 acres of wet land should be accomplished to "relieve the menace of periodic flooding." Mr. Brannan said the basin has 5,800,000 acres of land that need drainage, and half of existing systems "are in poor working condition."



CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# BRANNAN URGES 3.9 BILLION FOR MISSOURI BASIN

## Would Supplement 5 Billion Flood Plan

Washington, May 26 (AP)—Agriculture Secretary Brannan proposed today a 3 billion 92 million dollar program for speeding up development and conservation of agricultural resources in the Missouri river basin.

He said the program would do in 30 years what otherwise would take 100 years—and very much more money—at the present rate of progress.

The program would supplement a 5 billion dollar flood control plan for the Missouri river and its main tributaries already authorized by congress and known as the "Pick-Sloan plan."

In a report Brannan said his program is "imperative if we are to preserve the resources with which the basin is richly endowed and assure their full employment for the continuing good of the people."

### Would Pay Farmers

The bulk of the proposed federal expenditures would be used to make payments to farmers for carrying out government recommended measures for protecting the land from erosion. A major objective would be a return of much cropland to pastures for live stock grazing.

The area which would be covered by the program includes all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large parts of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of Missouri and Kansas, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa, and Minnesota.

The report was made public here and at Rapid City, S. D., where the Missouri basin inter-agency committee, an advisory group to the secretary, was meeting. The committee is composed of representatives of the agriculture, interior, and commerce departments, the army engineers, the federal power commission, and governors of Missouri basin states.

### Congress To Get Plan

Brannan said he expects to submit the program to congress later, after it has been checked and approved by the budget bureau.

The secretary said the program would contribute greatly to the problem of controlling floods, because it would be designed to help hold water back on the land, where it is needed to grow crops, ranges, forests, and the like.

He said it also would help protect the public investment in the 105 big flood control reservoirs envisioned by the Pick-Sloan plan by reducing the rate at which they would fill up with soil sediment.

The proposed federal spending would be as follows:

Conservation and improvement measures for grassland and cropland, \$1,189,630,000.

Forest and forest-range land conservation, \$493,609,000.

Projects to stabilize small watercourses, \$1,005,400,000.

Aid of irrigation, \$201,310,000.

Improving drainage of farm land, \$31,942,000.

Soil surveys and land classification, \$28,620,000.

### 51 Million For Research

Research on ways of improving farm and forestry production in the basin, \$51,305,000.

Extension education of farmers in new methods, \$60,074,000.

Expanded farm credit facilities for affected farmers, \$30,300,000.

Special studies in rural electrification needs, \$138,000.

Brannan proposed that 100 million a year be spent on these projects. Roughly 33 million a year is being spent on them now.

Major phases of the program include:

Improved land management on a large part of the basin's 113 million acres of cropland "to assure their employment in the best adapted uses, to control erosion and halt depletion, and to retard floodwaters at their very source."

This would mean, the report said, seeding of grass and legumes on 20 million acres of land now being depleted by continuous use; green manure and cover crops every year to protect 13 million acres of barren land; stubble mulching 34 million acres of grain crops to prevent erosion; strip cropping and contour farming on 63.5 million acres; and 1.9 million miles of terraces to retain water or to dispose of it in safety.

Similar treatment was proposed for 157.5 million acres of range and pasture land.

To help develop and stabilize a larger live stock industry, the program proposes 500,000 new ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps, 78,000 wells for water. Grazing land would be protected with 166,000 miles of fire guards.

To conserve and develop forests the program would plant trees on 5 million acres of forest land and on 400,000 acres of range land. It also proposes construction of lookout towers, roads, trails and fire crew stations to provide better fire protection.

The plan also calls for planting of more than 2.5 million acres of shelter belts and windbreaks.

# Brannan Proposes \$3 Billion Missouri Valley Plan

By John W. Ball  
Post Reporter

Agriculture Secretary Charles F. Brannan yesterday proposed a three-billion-dollar soil and water conservation program to develop the Missouri River Valley.

His program would be supplemental to the five-billion-dollar flood-control program of the Army Engineers, known as the Pick-Sloan Plan, which was authorized by Congress in 1944. Brannan will present his vast new program to Congress later, the 188-page 24-ounce document declares.

Brannan's proposal would throw into the discard any plan for development of the Missouri River by an agency of the nature of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The release of his plan was made here at 6 a. m. and later at Rapid City, S. Dak., where the Missouri Basin Interagency Committee, an advisory group, is meeting. This committee is made up of representatives of the Agriculture, Interior and Commerce Departments, the Army Engineers, Federal Power Commission and the Governors of the States in the Missouri Valley.

Supporters of the TVA method of river valley development saw in Brannan's unusual early-morning release a move to overshadow a report of the Hoover Commission for Government Reorganization scheduled for noon. The latter report attacked interagency programs such as the Brannan proposal in a section headed "Water Resource Development," thus:

"In this area of Government service, two large Federal agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, have conflicting jurisdiction in river development work.

"Operating under separate statutes and appropriations one is primarily concerned with local flood control, the other with irrigation. With differing purposes they work on the same rivers, the corps working up the river meeting the bureau coming down.

"There have been repeated instances where each competes with the other to begin construction on the same project. The result has been hasty planning, lack of suf-

ficient basic data, duplicating cost of surveying and estimating, failure to consider the entire needs of the area, and the creation of strong and opposing local pressures each seeking special benefits.

"The end result has been needless delay, confusion, and gross waste of the taxpayers' money.

"The history of the operation of these agencies in the Columbia and Missouri Valleys . . . provides eloquent testimony to the disastrous consequences of the competition between these Federal agencies."

Brannan pointed out that in recent years the vast, rich agricultural Missouri Valley has suffered a gradual dwindling of population, compared with other sections.

"Although the national population has increased more than 30 per cent since 1920," Brannan says, "the population of the basin has increased very little.

"The farm population of the basin reached its peak about 1920, but an ensuing small decline was recovered by 1933. From that time farm population showed a steady decline until 1945. From 1933 to 1945 the loss was about 750,000 farm people, or 25 per cent."

The report then added that there "is evidence that the farm population is again declining." Non-farm population has increased at the rate of 26 per cent since 1920, far behind the increase of 55 per cent shown in the country as a whole.

One of the chief aims of the plan, Brannan asserted, is to avoid the disastrous droughts that have afflicted the region, of which there have been three in the last 100 years.

"The good weather the basin has enjoyed for nearly a decade has been the Nation's good fortune as well as the basin's," he said. "The span coincided with our success in the Second World War, and the basin unsparingly contributed its bounty to our war effort. But if the drought of the 1930s had been prolonged a few more years, the Missouri Basin would have been incapable of giving its support to the rest of the Nation."

"The program is truly novel in its magnitude," Brannan asserts, and then tries to answer the

Hoover report with these words:

The unique qualities of the program are to be found in its coordination of land management for conservation and flood control, in its integration of diversified services in order to achieve a common goal, and in its recommendations for a much swifter pace in conservation and the adoption of constructive land management."

The program, Brannan adds, will take "at least 30 years." But unless adopted, he said, "the desirable results may be delayed for as long as a century, if, in fact, we are able to realize them at all."

The program was divided into "five operating divisions that have a common basis in the fundamental inter-relationship in land use. Progress in each is essential to progress in all." The divisions are:

1. Conservation and improvement of grassland and cropland. This means applying good land management to the basin's 582,000 farmers and 282 million acres in farms and ranches. This would be intended to stabilize and increase production, reduce erosion and sediment damage, abate floods, etc.

2. Forests, including both public and privately owned lands. Seventy-two million acres of Federal forest lands in the western section, especially in the Rockies, are the source of much of the water of the Missouri. The program there would "accelerate conservation and flood control," with material benefits to livestock, lumbering and recreation facilities.

3. Stabilizing measures for small watercourses. Safe disposal of water in small watersheds and lesser tributary streams will "contribute to flood control, to the protection of the public investment in large flood control works, and to protection against destruction of lands by major gullies, bank-cutting and sedimentation." The program would include gully control structures, floodways, bank protection works and small retarding basins.

4. Irrigation. The program will increase the basin's present five million acres of irrigated farmland two and a half times.



## WASHINGTON POST

5. Drainage. Here the program calls for helping farmers renew impaired drainage systems, and install systems for 1,500,000 acres which will be relieved of periodic "flooding" when the large system of the Engineer Corps is completed along the Missouri below Sioux City, Iowa.

The program contemplates reseedling 17,500,000 acres of depleted range and pasture land with legumes and grass. The report recommends improvements in management for 117 million acres of grassland. This includes adjustment of livestock numbers to the capacity of each grazing unit to give the grass a better chance to grow.

He proposed Federal speeding as follows:

Grassland and cropland conservation and improvement measures: \$1,189,630,000.

Forest and range land conservation, \$493,609,000.

Projects to stabilize small watercourses, \$1,005,400,000.

Aid to irrigation, \$201,310,000.

Drainage, \$31,842,000.

Soil surveys and land classification, \$28,620,000.

Research on improvement of farm and forestry production, \$51,305,000.

Extension education of farmers in new methods, \$60,074,000.

Expanded farm credit facilities, \$30,300,000.

Rural electrification extension studies, \$138,000.

Brannan's proposal is that 100 millions a year be spent on these projects; about 33 million are spent annually now.

The greatest benefit from the program, the report states, will be from private owners who will be encouraged "to protect their land from erosion and depletion" and also "to operate their farms so as to withstand the punishment, adverse weather inflicts."

The report estimates farmers and landowners will spend three or four times as much as the Government in carrying out the program.

## LOUISVILLE COURIER-POST

# Brannan Tells Plan to Safeguard Missouri Basin

## Program to Cost 10 Billion Aimed At Erosion, Flood

Washington, May 26 (U.P.)—Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan today unfolded a \$10,000,000,000 plan to safeguard the fertile farmlands of the great Missouri basin against erosion, flood, and "another great drought."

It calls for the Federal Government to spend \$100,000,000 a year for the next 30 years to complete the job of conserving the area's farms, ranges, forests, and streams. Local farmers and ranchers would match each federal dollar with three or four of their own.

### Says Delay Might Be Critical.

Federal spending in the area now is running only about one third of that contemplated under Brannan's program.

He said that at that rate it would take a century to finish the project and that it might never be completed, because of constant deterioration. He said the delay might be critical because history shows the great droughts have occurred in the region every 30 or 40 years.

Brannan used 40,000 words and some two dozen maps and charts to explain his plan. He made the proposal public after having sent it to the Budget Bureau to be forwarded to Congress.

### Irrigation Projects Planned.

The Missouri's muddy waters flow from 10 states, draining one sixth of the nation's land and one fourth of its farmlands. The basin stretches across the Dakotas and Nebraska west into Montana and Colorado and south into Missouri and Kansas. It touches southeast Minnesota.

Brannan said his plan would only "supplement"—not replace—the \$5,000,000,000 Pick-Sloan plan for a series of dams, reservoirs, and irrigation projects to harness the waters of the big river system. More than \$500,000,000 already has been spent on that program.

The plan would operate at "grass-roots" level—on the streams, forests, ranges, and croplands. About \$2,200,000,000 of the funds would be paid directly to landowners as part payment for conservation projects and soil- and forest-conserving practices.

It calls for construction and improvement of 500,000 farm ponds, 30,000 springs and seeps, and 78,000 wells. It also would entail 1,900,000 miles of water-retaining terraces, 166,000 of forest firewalls, 65,000 miles of fencing,

2,000 miles of cattle trails, 2,500,000 acres of shelter belts, and 14,000 to 16,000 small upstream dams.

### Would Raise Stock Output.

It envisions an increase in livestock production in the area and a cutback in soil-depleting field crops. Some 20,000,000 acres would be shifted to grasses and legumes.

The idea, Brannan said, is to build up the underground water table, "thereby building a stable foundation for agriculture in a region where drought is an unusually high risk." He said unwise land practices in the area were making it "increasingly vulnerable" to drought.

The system of paying farmers to improve their conservation techniques is the only one feasible, he said, because 79 per cent of the land is privately owned. The Government already operates such a program on a smaller scale. It would be accelerated.

Brannan sidestepped the controversial issue of whether the plan would be centralized under a Missouri Valley authority or kept on a decentralized basis.

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMAN

## Missouri Basin Plan Proposed

WASHINGTON, May 26—(AP)—A \$3,092,000,000 federal program to halt wastage of soil and to develop agricultural resources in the broad Missouri river basin was proposed Thursday by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan.

The program is patterned after conservation activities now being carried on in all parts of the country by the department. But it would speed up the work in the Missouri basin with the idea of doing in one generation what would take three to do at the present rate of progress.

Brannan said a speeded up program is needed to put farming—a major economic activity in the region—on a sounder foundation

The secretary expects to lay the program before congress for its approval as soon as other government agencies, including the budget bureau give it their approval. The plan was made public here and at a meeting of the Missouri river inter-agency committee, an advisory group, at Rapid City, S. D.

In general, the program would be built around conservation measures now being carried out by the department's soil conservation service and production and marketing administration.

Probably 40 percent of the proposed expenditures would be used in making payments to farmers for carrying out soil and water saving measures on their land. About a third would be spent in building dams and similar projects aimed at helping control water in small streams which now contribute heavily to devastating floods in the Missouri river.

TULSA DAILY WORLD

## SOIL WELFARE FUNDS URGED

**Brannan Asks \$3 Billion to  
Halt Wastage, Develop  
Missouri Basin**

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The program is patterned after conservation activities now being carried on in all parts of the country by the department. But it would speed up the work in the Missouri basin with the idea of doing in one generation what would take three to do at the present rate of progress.

Brannan said a speeded up program is needed to put farming — a major economic activity in the region — on a sounder foundation and to save valuable natural resources for the future welfare of the nation.

### AWAITS APPROVAL

The secretary expects to lay the program before congress for its approval as soon as other government agencies, including the budget bureau, give it their approval. The plan was made public here and at a meeting of the Missouri river inter-agency committee, an advisory group, at Rapid City, S. D.

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dams and similar projects aimed at helping control water in small streams which now contribute heavily to devastating floods in the Missouri river.

### WIDE AREA COVERED

The program would cover all of Nebraska, most of South Dakota, large portions of North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, about half of Kansas and Missouri, and smaller parts of Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota. The area is about 340,000,000 acres.

Brannan said the program would aid the \$5,000,000,000 Pick-Sloan program for control of floods in the Missouri basin. That program calls for 105 flood-water reservoirs, 1,500 miles of levees along the Missouri river below Sioux City, and hydro-electric power plants with capacity to generate 10 billion kilowatt hours of energy a year.

The secretary proposed that the government spend \$100,000,000 a year for 30 years to carry out the program. The department is now spending about \$33,000,000 a year for conservation activities in the basin.



NORFOLK JOURNAL AND GUIDE (VA.)

# Brannan Seeks 3 Billions For Farm Improvements

By JOHN DRUCKENBROD

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (INS) — Agriculture Secretary Brannan proposed last week that the government spend \$3,092,328,000 during the next 30 years to improve farms and forests in the Missouri River Basin.

Brannan said that the program, unprecedented in its scope, would triple the present rate of agricultural development and federal spending for about 340 million acres.

The plan is designed chiefly to spur private investment of more than seven and one-half billion dollars for floor control, soil and forest conservation, drainage and irrigation projects.

## WOULD ENCOURAGE OUTLAY

The government would spend about two and one-half of its three-odd billion dollars to encourage this outlay, raising both private and federal expenditures

to at least ten billions.

Under the arrangement, Brannan would reimburse farmers at the rate of one dollar for every three to four they spend to improve or conserve their soil. In addition, the agriculture department would make available more than one billion dollars in credit to help farmers to pay their share. Only a small part of the credit funds is provided for in the three-odd billion dollars.

## STATES AFFECTED

Top agriculture officials formally presented the program for comment to governors of the ten Missouri basin states last Thursday at Rapid City, S. D.

The state affected are Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado.

An agriculture spokesman said the Budget Bureau already has indicated its approval and the plan is expected to be sent to Congress some time in June.

## THE KIPLINGER AGRICULTURAL LETTER

Sec. Brannan's Missouri Basin farm project is ultra long range, covers the next 30 years, at least. Idea is to improve farming in area at the same time the big power, reclamation and flood control projects are being built. Cost about 100 millions a year, 3 billions in total.

Ten states are included in the project...Neb., S.D., N.D., Wyo., Mont., Kan., Mo., Colo., Ia. and Minn. Amount of work planned for each varies widely, some will be covered almost entirely, others only touched.

Basic idea of plan is not new. Agricultural conservationists have long maintained that the first step in preventing damaging floods is to hold rain water on the land on which it falls, curb water runoff. It is proposed that soil and water conservation efforts be intensified in the Basin. This means more grass, cover crops, terracing, strip crops, and other tested conservation measures. In addition, thousands of dams, very small affairs, would be built at headwaters of streams and rivers. Improvements in forestry, irrigation and drainage are also recommended.

Gov't would help by making soil surveys, drawing up farm plans. Gov't credit would be available to help farmers carry out these plans. More gov't research and farmer education in conservation is called for.

Congress is not likely to approve the new plan at this session. It is doubtful that it will ever take the whole program in one big bite. However, the program probably will be approved piecemeal over the years, and USDA will be able to speed up soil conservation work in the Basin.

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
MISSOURI BASIN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE

Meeting at Helena, Montana  
July 21-22, 1949

That the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee thank the Department of Agriculture for preparing the report, endorse the general objective and recommend that the Congress take the necessary steps to put the program into effect.

Moved by Governor Val Peterson of Nebraska.

Seconded by Governor George T. Mickelson of South Dakota.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Committee.

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The Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee

State Representatives

Hon. Val Peterson  
Governor of Nebraska

Hon. George T. Mickelson  
Governor of South Dakota

Hon. Fred G. Aandahl  
Governor of North Dakota

Hon. John W. Bonner  
Governor of Montana

Hon. Forrest Smith  
Governor of Missouri

Federal Agency Members

W.G. Sloan, Department  
of the Interior, Chairman

Gladwin E. Young, Depart-  
ment of Agriculture

Charles E. Brokaw  
Department of Commerce

B.H. Greene, Federal  
Power Commission

Brigadier General  
S.D. Sturgis, Jr., Corps  
of Engineers





